



Volume 87, Issue 36

GATEWAY



February 12, 1998

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STUDENT CHARGED OVER OPEN LETTER

Painting on HUB wall aimed at grabbing president's attention

by Chris Miller and Christie Schultz

A University of Alberta student is facing a charge of mischief after painting an open letter to President Rod Fraser on a temporary wall in HUB Mall yesterday afternoon.

Thom McDonnell, a third-year political science student, said he painted the message to try to convey the frustration to Fraser that is shared by many students. McDonnell said that tuition is rising too quickly and accessibility to post secondary education is declining. And while this is happening, Fraser has his sights set elsewhere, charged McDonnell.

"He wants this school to be one of the best in North America, if not the world. ... It's basically been done on the backs of students," he said.

While pursuing a high international standing is "laudable," McDonnell said Fraser has ignored the wishes of students in the process.

"If you ask the students and faculty what the priorities are, I don't think it's internationalization," he said. "The students should be the [first] priority. Secondly, it should be the community which [the University] serves: Edmonton and Alberta."

While he doesn't advocate free tuition, he noted that tuition has doubled over the past few years, while Alberta's \$5 an hour minimum wage, the lowest in Canada, has remained.

He feels students should be able to commit one-third of their summer earnings, based on \$5 an hour and a 40 hour work week, toward tuition. This would reduce the burden placed on students to attend university, he said.

"The money is there for post-secondary instruction to be funded at a reasonable level."

McDonnell didn't see painting the letter, which he described as a "spur of the moment" idea, as criminal. "There's this strange little thing called freedom of speech, which I think has been forgotten in the last four years."

He didn't feel writing a letter on paper to Fraser would get the president's attention, but hopes painting one will. "If this gets his attention ... and makes him think, good."

McDonnell was charged by Edmonton City Police with mischief. He is to appear in court on March 5. "I encourage everybody to come out," he said.

Since his arrest, students have been adding their signatures to the letter.

Fraser was out of town yesterday and couldn't be reached for comment.

The temporary wall was set up during renovations to one of the shops in the mall. "My understanding is that it's supposed to be painted over anyway," said one construction worker, who wouldn't give his name. "Big blank wall—who could resist it?"



It's almost Valentine's day again. (You don't need to buy things to show you care.)

Geraldine Ching

Tuition talk in parliament

SU execs meet with federal ministers during Ottawa trip

by Chris Miller

The federal government is taking student debt concerns seriously, and this should be reflected in the next federal budget, says SU vp external Heather Taylor.

"The government is recognizing student debt is a big issue. It's going to have an effect on our economy," said Taylor.

Taylor and SU president

this month, said Taylor.

Because of pre-budget secrecy, "there's a lot Martin couldn't tell us. But he did say he'd like to meet with [CASA members] after the budget to explain why things were in there [and] why things weren't in there."

But a few things were clear, Taylor said.

"The interest on student loans being tax deductible is not going to be in there," she said, adding she believes this concern will be brought before Parliament as a private member's bill.

Student debt is a concern on Parliament Hill these days, said Taylor.

She noted that the Progressive Conservatives sought advice from CASA on what to ask during Question Period, and that student concerns were debated by the House of Commons last week. "We were in Hansard [Parliament's record of debates in the House] quite a bit over two days."

Taylor said students can take a bow for making politicians take note of post-secondary issues.

"It has come from the students. If you look back to the federal election, post-secondary edu-

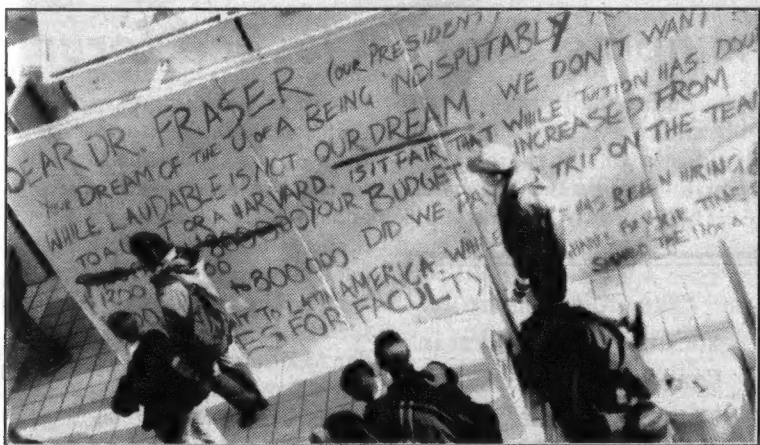
cation was no where," she said.

The ministers also cited CASA president Hoops Harrison as a driving force for getting the issue before the House of Commons, she added.

The meeting, which cost \$2,000 for her and Curran to attend, accomplished a lot, said Taylor. She said the ministers were receptive, and, although the

"It has come from the students. If you look back to the federal election, post-secondary education was no where."

— SU vp external Heather Taylor



Jenn Park

Thom McDonnell expressed his feelings to President Rod Fraser in this letter he painted yesterday in HUB mall.

"The government is recognizing student debt is a big issue. It's going to have an effect on our economy."

— SU vp external Heather Taylor

Stephen Curran, along with 18 other members of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), were in Ottawa last week to meet with Finance minister Paul Martin and Human Resources Development minister Pierre Pettigrew. The ministers took questions February 4 from the student representatives, though many answers won't be available until the budget is released later

democratic approach takes time to show results, she prefers this to protests and marches.

"A lot of people think if you're not out there storming places, you're not doing anything," she said.

As well as meeting with the ministers, Taylor and Curran observed question period and spent two days meeting with CASA members.

Quote for the Day:

"We have tended too often to judge ourselves by imported values."

— Journalist Peter C. Newman

Faith and study: Muslim students say their religion has benefitted their studies. Find out more about it.....**News, page 3**

Pure and perfect: Just in time for Valentine's day: it's the Gateway purity test. How shockingly (un)sleazy are you?.....**Opinion, page 9**

Shaking the Plant: Holly McNarland rocks the Power Plant. Tuesday nights will never be the same. Check it out.....**Entertainment, page 12**

Bump n' dive: The Bears volleyball team will host the first round of playoffs this weekend.....**Sports, page 15**



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SHREDDING THE PUBLIC BUDGET

Taft, profs speak at Parkland Institute budget discussion

by Raechel Carpenter
Yesterday, researchers at the University of Alberta's Parkland Institute dug into the provincial budget to be passed down today by provincial treasurer Stockwell Day and premier Ralph Klein.

Parkland Institute director and U of A sociology professor Gordon Laxer, Economics professor emeritus Stan Drugge, and Business professor David Cooper spoke at the press conference. Kevin Taft, author of *Shredding the Public Interest*, also addressed the discussion.

Laxer stressed that the Institute was not presenting an alternate budget, but instead was raising questions about the way the government presents its budget figures.

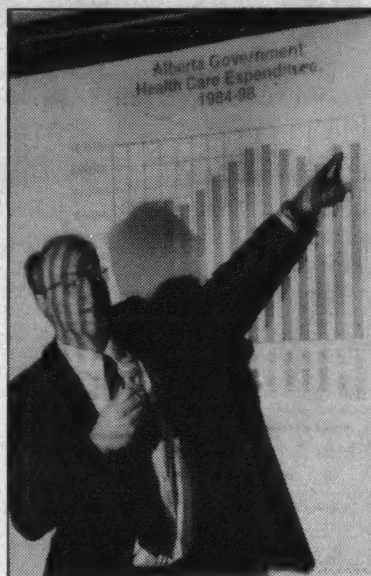
Last month, the provincial government announced spending increases in education, in higher education, and in social services. "...They were teasing us about delights to come. It was budget presentation by striptease. This exercise did nothing to convince us that the province is serious about reinvestment. It looked more like cover-up than strip-tease," he said.

Taft speculated on whether the current government would

"When they made their announcements, they were teasing us about delights to come. It was budget presentation by striptease."

— Parkland Institute director and U of A sociology professor Gordon Laxer on provincial spending promises

continue with the trends started by previous and current Tory governments. "Throughout the last 10 years, health care spending, when adjusted to population growth and inflation, [had zero growth] ... even before any of the Klein cuts." He added that other



Sarah Ciurysek

A speaker addresses the press at yesterday's conference.

programs, such as education and social services, were declining before any of the Klein cuts.

Taft said it was pretty clear the government hadn't changed any of its economic policies.

"If you work the numbers through, re-investment disappears when you account for population growth. Certainly in the last year, the government has not changed its ways in presenting information, continues to be highly manipulative, and continues to deceive the public on the value of its investment," he said.

According to Drugge, the question at hand is "whether the actual increases in health, education, and social welfare will be large enough to compensate for the forthcoming projected population growth and inflation increases."

He gave some key numbers for students.

"In order to keep education and advanced education at its current level, the government would have to spend [an extra] \$160 million dollars this year. If the number is under \$160 million in the forthcoming budget, we know there has been no reinvestment. Rather, there has been

negative investment."

Drugge emphasized Taft's point about how the government's numbers can be misleading if not corrected for population and inflation growth, and added "the other trick that is worth keeping one's eyes open for, ... is the government states that it is going to spend a billion dollars over five years. The general public doesn't divide through by five, they just think a billion dollars ... is very, very large. [They] make their judgments about the government's performance on those kinds of numbers."

Cooper spoke on the overall outlook of the provincial financial situation.

"[Essentially], we have a net asset position, not a gross debt or a net debt position. There's no doubt the unmatured debt of \$14 billion does exist. We do have to pay interest on that debt. The estimates the province made in November was that for 1997/98 that would come to just over \$1 billion in debt servicing costs. However, we have assets, the Heritage trust fund and others, which earn the province \$1.4 billion. The net so-called cost of borrowing is negative. This

"...health care spending, when adjusted to population growth and inflation, [had zero growth] ... even before any of the Klein cuts."

— Kevin Taft, Author of *Shredding the Public Interest*

province earns money on its investments."

Laxer concluded with the analogy that Alberta is like a family that earns \$100,000 a year, and instead of spending money to send their kid to university, pays down the mortgage. And, in doing so, the long term future of that child becomes irrelevant.

Making justice affordable

U of A to be new home for civil justice forum

by Christie Schultz
The faculty of Law hopes the establishment of the Canadian Forum on Civil Justice at the U of A, will make the law clearer to students and the general public.

Professor Lewis Klar, the dean of the faculty of Law, described the Forum as "a national institute that is going to be the central information and research centre for matters relating to reforming our civil justice system, the court system and access to justice issues."

"Basically, one of the major problems in Canada and all across North America is that for most people the cost of justice is too high: there are too many delays getting to court and so on," continued Klar. "Courts and governments all over Canada are trying to work out systems whereby you could have speedier trials or alternatives to trials, such as mediation or arbitration that are methods of re-

form that make it more affordable and more accessible for individuals to get their rights heard and their claims resolved."

The Forum will aim to help

"The Canadian Bar Association decided that in Canada we needed one central body that knows what is going on across the country in terms of civil justice reform ..."

— Lewis Klar, dean of Law

improve these current conditions of the legal system. "The Canadian Bar Association decided that in Canada we needed one central body that knows what is going on across the country in terms of civil justice reform and this body will then collect and share this information with other

provinces or other organizations that are looking into the same sorts of issues," said Klar. Ultimately, the information collected and researched will be used to increase the accessibility of the legal system.

The U of A was chosen as the site of the Forum by the Canadian Bar Association because of the faculty of Law's proposal, which highlighted its library, the technology at the U of A, and the faculty's experience with similar projects.

Klar noted that the Forum will "initially be financed by the Canadian Bar Association, which is committing about \$100,000 a year for three years, which is the budget to begin operation."

After this time, Klar hopes that the Forum will "attract funding from governments, law societies and foundations, and interested persons so that it can expand its work."

Klar expects that the Forum will be operational by March of this year.

Faculté seeking honors program

by Chris Miller

After years of effort, an honors program for Faculté Saint-Jean could be a reality next month.

Faculté dean Claudette Tardif said the proposed program goes before the Board of Governors on March 6.

"It's been in the works for over three years, and has just been approved by the GFC [General Faculties Council] executive," she explained.

And as an added bonus, Faculté Saint-Jean will be hosting the Board of Governors for this meeting. "It's kind of a good coincidence," said Tardif.

If approved, the program should be up and running in September, she said. It will offer specialization in what Tardif said were the Faculté's four strongest areas: Canadian Studies; Social and Political studies, which combines the fields of sociology and political science; French language and literature; and Interdisciplinary Studies. The Faculté already has the required library resources and expertise among the academic staff, she said, so there are no new hirings

or additional materials necessary to get the program off the ground. In fact, the only significant changes required will be the reorganization of some courses and the addition of honors thesis courses, said Tardif, which will keep the new program costs "minimal."

With more than 50 per cent of the Faculté's students going on to graduate studies, the honors program should serve students well, she said.

"This has been a request from a lot of our students who do go on to graduate work."

— Claudette Tardif
dean of Faculté St. Jean

"This has been a request from a lot of our students who do go on to graduate work," she explained. "They would [have] preferred to have done some specialization, if they could have done so."

If approved, this will be the latest addition to the Faculté's offerings. It comes after the recently-approved bilingual Bachelor of Commerce degree. Students enrolled in that program do half of their studies at the Faculté and half at the faculty of Business.

Faculté Saint-Jean, which opened in 1908 and integrated with the U of A 20 years ago, is the only all-French university faculty west of Manitoba, she added.

mini-feature: Religious Edge? Muslim taboos improve student life

by Laura Matheson and Dan Lazin

Does being Muslim give students a scholastic edge?

Muslim students claim that their religion assists them in their studies. The Koran, the main Islamic holy book, states that Muslims should "seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave," and students take this very seriously.

Ahmed Hassan, the Muslim Students' Association (MSA) vp external/academic, indicated that following Islam has helped further his understanding of his medical studies. "It enhances what you learn. You see the power of God and the glory of God."

Shane Nickolson, a fourth year civil engineering student and a convert to Islam, has done research into the problems plaguing Muslims in third-

"The lack of eating by itself is not detrimental—it just takes some getting used to," explained Hassan.

"It's amazing how much you get done [by not eating]," added Nickolson.

Muslim students have two options for representation on campus. Besides the MSA, students can turn to their chaplain, Saleem Ganam.

Ganam said Muslim students benefit from the prohibitions that Islam imposes on them. "I would say that 95 per cent [of Muslims] don't gamble and don't drink," said Ganam. "If we [as a society] didn't have drinking or gambling, we would all be a lot better."

... the way they behave when they're drinking ... it's such a sad thing."

— Hanna Hossen
Mamode, a Muslim

"Living with the people whom I live with ... the way they behave when they're drinking ... It's such a sad thing," added Hanna

Mamode, a Muslim since birth.

"[Islam] makes me more focused," she said. "When I am praying, and I am reading my Koran, school is so much easier for me."

Agreeing that most students are drawn to the religion because it is both a religion and a way of life, Ganam pointed out that most converts are originally Catholic.

"It's a comprehensive system," Nickolson said in explaining his conversion to Islam from Christianity.

Magdalena Stanislawski, a recent convert to Islam and a third year German Studies major said she chose to become Muslim because of the "simplicity of Islam."

"It wasn't like I woke up one day and decided to be a Muslim for a change," she explained.

Still, Stanislawski chuckled about other students' preconceptions like "you cannot be Polish and Muslim."

Hey! The big day is coming where you, the reader, can take our job. Applications, cover letters, and portfolios for line editor positions are due by March 5. Drop them off to Rose Yewchuk, and give her a big, wet, sloppy kiss. With tongue. Volunteers for pornographic experimentation are also needed. Send photos to the Gateway c/o Chris Miller. He'll look them over, baby.

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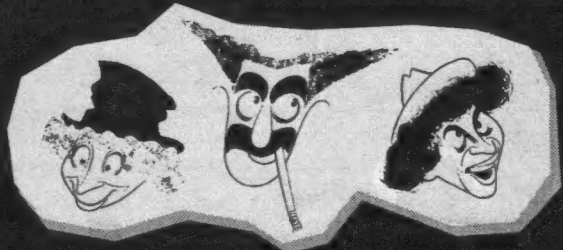
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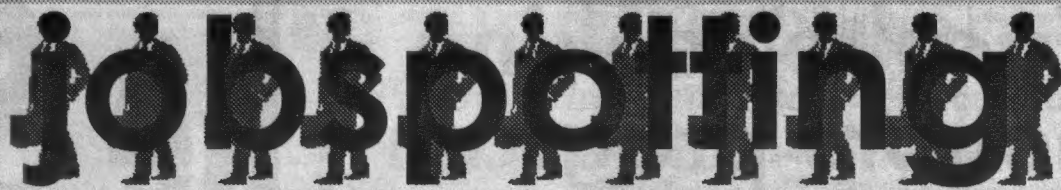
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This week's topic: creating a portfolio

A portfolio is another tool you can use to sell yourself for that perfect job. Traditionally, professionals in writing, editing, photography and other visually-oriented occupations have used portfolios to market their talents. Today, almost all work seekers can benefit from assembling a portfolio.

So what is a portfolio? In a nutshell, a portfolio is a visual record of your skills and abilities which is often intended for a prospective employer. It is *not* a resume and it should not take the place of one. A resume is an introduction of what you have to offer the employer. It is a short document that summarizes your skills, work and volunteer activities, interests and education. By contrast, a portfolio is much more extensive than a resume. It includes actual examples of your work as well as other documentation which attests to your talents, experiences and accomplishments. It is usually presented at the interview stage and not during the initial application stage.

Assembling an effective portfolio takes a great deal of time and effort. Depending on the presentation, style and format, it can hinder or aid in your job suitability and selection. One of the tricks to assembling an effective portfolio is to carefully choose documentation that closely reflect the needs of the employer.

In the initial stages of assembling a portfolio, it is best to collect as much documentation of your skills and accomplishments as possible rather than narrowing

your focus to your current job. At a later point you can pick and choose samples that best match the job you're applying for.

Since a portfolio differs from individual to individual and from occupation to occupation, it is difficult to give a hard and fast rule of what to include and exclude. Broadly speaking, your portfolio should demonstrate personal achievement and development as well as your

ership role, examples of changes in the workplace that you proposed or implemented, thank-you notes from patrons noting a particular skill, transcripts, teacher evaluations, letters of reference, samples of participation in professional organizations, etc.

Careful thought should also be given to the layout and design of your portfolio. It should be neatly and securely packaged, and organized in a clear and consistent manner. For example, documents should be placed in sheet protectors and arranged in a conservatively-coloured three-ring binder. Employers prefer things in a logical and systematic format so you should consider your organizational format with care. There should be a table of contents to aid the employer. Use logical categories and sections such as "work experience," "education," "awards and certificates," "special skills and personal accomplishments" and so forth. All these aspects combine to create a visually interesting, engaging and well thought out product.

Career and Placement Services (CaPS) can provide you with many more suggestions about what to include in your portfolio and what type of format would be best suited for your particular style and/or occupation. Portfolios can reinforce positive impressions that were made during the interview. As the saying goes, "seeing can truly lead to believing."

CAREER AND PLACEMENT SERVICES

own unique individuality. It is much better to include five or six outstanding samples than a multitude of mediocre documents. Scrutinize your documents carefully and include only the best for the particular job for which you are applying.

Documentation can be acquired from a number of different experiences including your work, volunteer activities, education and training, as well as other experiences such as involvement with associations or on committees.

If you limit your selections to work items, you may miss an opportunity to collect examples of your accomplishments outside of the workplace. You may wish to include samples such as employee evaluations, certificates of courses or awards, personal publications, pictures of yourself in a group lead-

Tuition and Coke deals on the way Board of Governors to discuss dollar amounts Friday

by Gateway staff

It may be a less than joyful kick-off to Reading Week, but your tuition will go up this Friday afternoon.

A special meeting of the Board of Governors, set for 2 p.m. in University Hall council chambers, will look

at whether tuition for next year should go up by 8.92 per cent or by a smaller amount.

The issue was last discussed by the Board in January, when University administration requested the 8.92 per cent hike,

amounting to about \$233 per full time student per year. However, the issue was tabled to give board members time to look at the effects of reducing the increase to five per cent.

Administrators told the BoG that a five per cent increase would create a \$2.7 million budget shortfall, but student representatives have argued that tuition has been rising by too much for too long, putting a financial straitjacket on some students.

The single source cold beverage deal will also be discussed by the BoG. The proposal would give Coca Cola a 10 year deal to be the exclusive supplier to the University. In return, the University would be given more than \$4 million for scholarships, and the SU would receive \$500,000 for student priorities.

The BoG meeting is scheduled to run till 4:30 p.m. All students are encouraged to attend.

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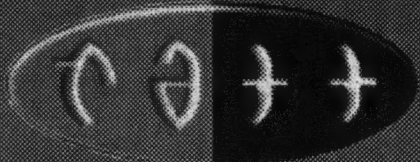


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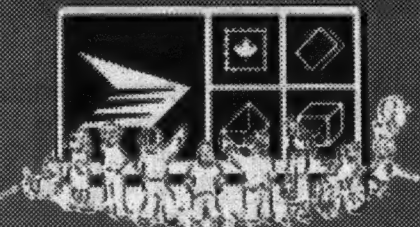
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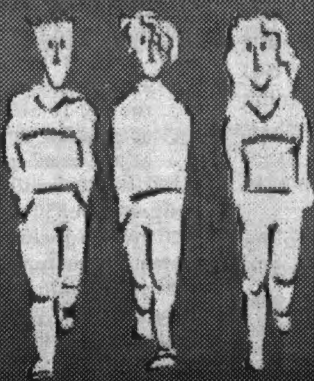
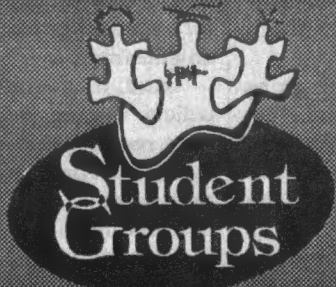
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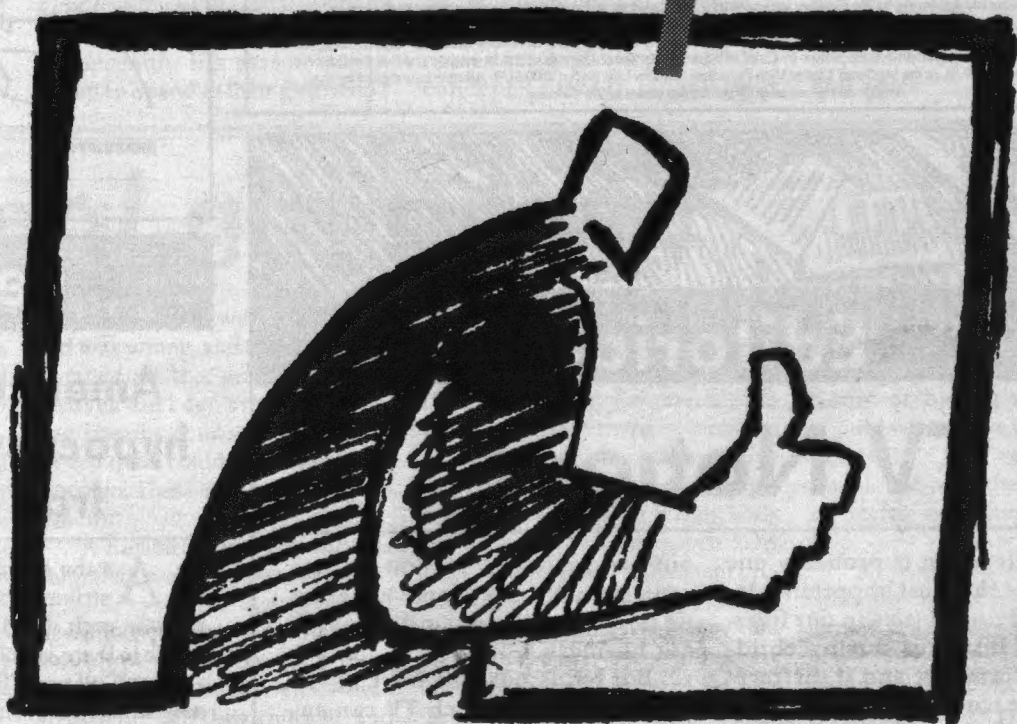
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Editorial TV Notions

Television is probably one of the most important, defining objects in our lives. It raised a lot of us during childhood; it informs us; and it distracts us from the world around us.

I love TV. I'm a TV junkie. I like to watch as much as possible, mainly because it's such an easy thing to do. No one has to think while they're watching the television, except perhaps to think about what one will watch after the current program is over. TV has it all for us in prepackaged segments, and I, for one, couldn't be happier.

TV is responsible for a new generation of people — the couch potatoes. I overheard a friend of mine having a conversation, and he was saying that Canada's real national sport is sitting on the couch watching sports on TV. And it's true. Why bother getting up to actually go to a game or event when you can watch it on TV? It's so much easier to let the multi-million dollar athletes earn their so-rightly deserved salaries to entertain us: the demanding masses.

The daily news is a way for most people to learn about what is going on in their city, their country, and the world. The various stations bring us an hour of facts that they deem worthy to bring to our attention. We, the masses, hardly ever question whether that's all that happening, or if stories are being left

out for reasons of content or time constraints. No, it's simply easier for us to smile and nod and go about our business.

But let us not lose track of the myriad ways in which TV can entertain us: dramas, comedies, movies, and other shows entertain us by bringing to us a sort of virtual reality: a time-out from the pressures of our real lives where we can hang out with our friends in the TV. Amusement and distraction are what we all crave, and woe to any show that fails to bring them to us. All the real-life dramas that have been cropping up of late are surely an indication of that. We want to be amused, and what better way is there to be amused than experiencing what other people do as a daily routine? Of course, the more dangerous those lives are the better, because we certainly don't want to be facing that danger ourselves. Oh no....

With all the various attachments that a TV can have — from VCR to video game playstations — we have built up a shrine to our beloved little black boxes. There exists within our televisions endless varieties of ways to amuse ourselves, with no real thought necessary, instant gratification, and no danger present. What a wonderful little machine.

Rudi Gunther
Production Editor

Contributors

Sarah "Action" Kelly, David Stiles, Theo Buchinskias, Mr. Knish, Captain Winky, Mimi Williams, Jason Glabb x2, Barrie Tanner, Morton Von Hoff, Adam Thrasher, Michael Winters, Christie Schultz x2, Raechel Carpenter, Byron McBride, Robert Antoniuk, Michael Brown, Randy & Connie Woychuk, Alex Tsang, Adrian Suva, Rod Szarka, M organ Pendleton, Dan Lazin x2, Laura Matheson x2, Denise Fernandes, Jenn Park, Christie Schultz, Steven Hamblin, Geraldine Ching, Sarah Haddow, Gregory Pang, Karen Foster, Christine Mazur, Dave Alexander, Farhan Daya, Hussein Juma, James Friesen, Graham Bakay, Joel Higham, Craig Corbett, I P Freely, Robocop

Online Chat With Microsoft...

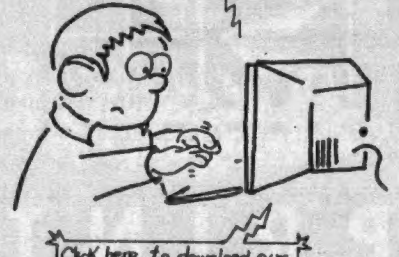
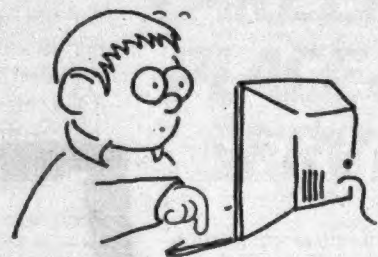
The 'Millennium Bug' will shut down all computer systems on Jan. 1 2000. How could this error be overlooked by your programmers?

Do you not understand that 2000 comes after 1999? Now everyone will have to buy a brand new computer...



...from...you...

You are my heroes.



Click here to download our new Tuesday bug!

Letters to the Editor

American hypocrisy in Iraq

As the threats of air strikes against Iraq increase each day, I wonder whether there is going to be another Gulf war. I'll say this now so that everyone knows where I stand: these air strikes, which may or may not happen, are unjustified and will serve the UN (read: US) no meaningful purpose. As we say in my Holy Village, "you can lead a stupid donkey to water, but you can't make that stupid donkey drink." With the UN's bombing of Iraq, Saddam throw out all the UN inspectors. But would they have forced him to comply?

The other funny thing is that after all the inspections, these weapons can be manufactured again. Technology is carried in laptops these days. The "reason" for air strikes is that Iraq is not obeying UN resolutions. Of course, anyone who follows world politics will know that these contemplated air strikes have nothing to do with UN resolutions. After all, Israel and the former apartheid regime in South Africa disobeyed more UN resolutions than Iraq.

The double standards of the "international community" are so glaring that even a blind man can see them. Israel refuses to obey UN resolutions and gets more US aid; Iraq refuses and is bombed. I guess the US government should actually be looking at the precedents they are setting. They know we know of their double standard strategies and, yet, they remain unashamed. Moreover, there are over 12 countries in the world that have

nuclear weapons and biological and chemical weapons. Yet there is constant reference to Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Are the weapons being employed by the US to "deny Saddam the ability to use them again" weapons of individual destruction? How sure is the US that those aforementioned countries with biological weapons and such will not have rulers in the future who will use them the "way Saddam is using his?"

So, what does it boil down to? Well, to the fact that the US alone should have weapons so it can watch over the rest of the world.

But who watches over the arbitrary actions of the US itself? There are only three reasons why Iraqi people should have another bombardment and these are: hypocrisy, hypocrisy and hypocrisy.

David Nanang
Rural Economy

(Sac)religious musings

I seem to be saying, "Good God," a lot these days in response to the crises that unfold around me.

I've used expressions like, "Ohmigod," and, "Oh Gawd," ever since my junior high days, when I decided to start flaunting my ability to take the Lord's name in vain.

I was raised religiously and went to a Catholic school for my 12 formative years of education, but Christianity lost all meaning for me when I was about 14. I've never been able to go back to it, though I've agonized a lot over this.

I believe strongly in the importance of hard work, family, and being nice to others. I am a spiritual person,

and I believe that there is order and justice to the universe. Despite these core beliefs, I don't think I'll ever be able to call myself a Christian again.

Being a "Christian" today also seems to mean being openly homophobic, rejecting sex before marriage, condemning divorce, fearing abortion, and voting Reform. I know that there are branches of the religion that don't subscribe to these views. Still, the politically active extremists have claimed the label "Christian" and its accompanying cloak of moral rectitude for themselves alone. I have no desire to be identified with these people, so I reject my background.

I think Christianity still has a tremendous hold on me, though. I don't think I even realize how much it affects my thoughts, since it was the framework within which I first learned about the world. I think that's why it gives me pause when I catch myself saying, "Good God," in mock shock. You pretty much have to acknowledge the existence of God, if only subconsciously, for a phrase like that to have any meaning.

And, it comforts me to believe that my Baba, who died recently, has reached some sort of peace, instead of being winked out in a purposeless annihilation.

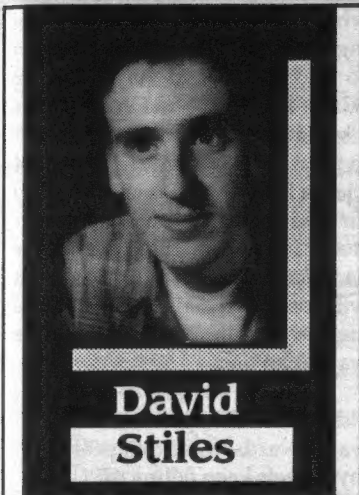
Mary Tradagucci
Arts III

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at:

The Gateway
room 0-10 SUB
or emailed to:
gateway@mail.su.ualberta.ca

Letters should be no longer than 350 words and should include the name, phone number, student ID number, program, and year of study of the author.

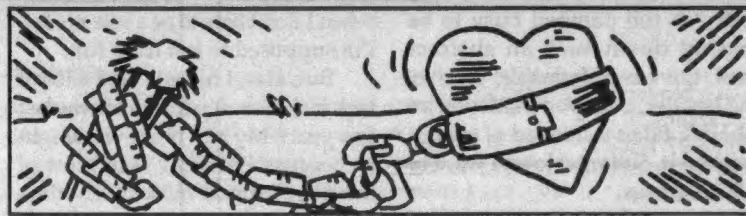
Planned spontaneity a bourgeois plot!



**David
Stiles**

It's almost that time of year again, and the executives at Hallmark are doubtlessly rubbing their hands together with glee. As you all know, February 14th is Valentine's Day.

This is the day when couples supposedly reaffirm their love for each other or some such idealized thing. Unfortunately, this holiday is merely an overblown bourgeois plot which brings in the retail bucks during a season which would otherwise be rather slow for business. Worse, it degrades the true meaning of romance. Romance doesn't really have anything to do with deluxe heart-shaped Belgian chocolates and it certainly should not bear any relation to sweat shops in underdeveloped nations which tirelessly produce little white teddy bears in time for early February. Romance is really about the good feelings which exist between two people who are in love. Therefore, there are many good reasons to just ignore this commercialized holiday.



Firstly, Valentine's Day almost automatically obligates people to buy so-called romantic gifts for their significant others. Let's go back and re-emphasize two words from that sentence: romantic and obligates. If someone is obligated to do something, they are by definition forced to do that thing. How romantic can something be if it is compelled? Valentine's Day reduces romance to little more than a chore without personal meaning behind it.

Secondly, if a person is supposed to attend to their girlfriend/

boyfriend on this day, does this mean that they aren't supposed to care as much on every other day of the year? It would be best if the money-hungry corporations would just lay off and let people decide for themselves when they want to buy flowers, candy and other assorted gifts for their lovers. Of course, they aren't likely to give up the cash cow so that you can have your freedom.

This goes beyond the level of a huge marketing scheme. Businesses are exploiting a cultural concept in order to get your

money. It's bad enough that big business is able to manipulate consumers into spending money. It's worse when those same businesses are able to tell you almost exactly when to spend it. Therefore, I urge you all to resist this fiendish scheme!

A gift for a loved one is a good idea but make the timing spontaneous and break free from the control which big business has over your money. After all, a surprise gift is much more satisfying than one which is merely expected. I know a genuinely romantic person who told his girlfriend that Valentine's Day wasn't a special day because he had to share it with everyone and not just with her. He's absolutely correct in saying that. Let's just hope that at least a few people out there will agree.

The real girl power



**Sarah
Kelly**

Melanie Chisholm, better known as Sporty Spice, has a tattoo on her arm: two Japanese symbols representing, respectively, "Woman" and "Strength" — Girl

Power. Unfortunately, she has most likely tattooed the two words on her arm because she cannot find them together anywhere else.

I was in an abusive relationship for three years. I was not small and meek and accepting; over time, I learned to hit back, to bite and claw my way to safety. My friends often accuse me of thinking that this relationship having gone awry is somehow my fault — I don't believe this. My boyfriend was a sick man and there was nothing I could do for him. However, one thing is my fault: I didn't leave him when I should have.

I've spent a lot of time whining about this relationship and how it's affected me. I blamed the failure of my subsequent relationships on this man; I learned to blame everything on him. For an entire year I was crippled by my

inability to deal with it. What he did was wrong, and there are small parts of me that may never fully recover. But I don't regret not having sought counselling; I'm relieved that I could come this far on my own. These days, very few people can.

A hundred years ago and less than that, when women were confined to kitchens and gardens and sewing circles, they were forced to be completely emotionally independent. They had their husbands to care for, and their children, and their household, and they had to care for these things alone. They often became ill without anyone noticing; they never took a day off. I don't know what they would have thought of Space Moose, but they were self-sufficient in every respect except those financial.

Today, on every block there's a Rape Crisis Centre, a Pregnancy Crisis Centre, a Post-Abortion Crisis Centre, and my personal favourite, a series of fitness emporiums called Spa Lady, which do not allow men onto their premises. Men get rocks thrown at them if they walk in the door; I've seen it happen. Why is this "egalitarian" movement promoting so much more segregation? And so much more weakness? God help me if I ever become insecure over a man seeing me on a LifeCycle in a sweatsuit.

The feminist movement was supposed to give women strength and independence. Instead, it's given women license to be weak. This, in my opinion, is why the word "feminist" has become so dirty and so feared. In today's world, women should be relying

on themselves rather than spending all of their time placing blame and organizing marches in the name of hating men. Women should never have had to fight for "equality": they've always been equal. But now they see all these obstacles; now they need all this help.

A woman's own "woman strength" is not found in a crisis center. It's found within herself. If these kinds of feminists could find their independence, and realize that they have the power to survive anything, not by hating men, not by usurping them, not by blaming them for the way their fathers and grandfathers and great-grandfathers were; but by taking joy in their femininity and their differences, I don't think they would have to be so angry all the time.

REDD ROBYN TRAVEL
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SPECIALS: for February & March

- 1) **ALL INCLUSIVE:** in Puerto Vallarta at the **PARADISUS PUERTO VALLARTA** inc. meals, unlimited beverages, watersports, nightly entertainment, Depart Calgary Sunday Feb. 22, Mar. 1, Mar. 8, Mar. 22 from \$1399 CDN, p.p., dbl.occ., 7 days, not inc. Taxes or GST. or two weeks starting at \$2079 CDN.
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U of A Libraries Closed February 15 & 16, 1998

The University of Alberta Libraries will be closed Sunday February 15, and Monday February 16 (Family Day) 1998 for computer system maintenance. The **GATE:NEOS** Libraries' Catalogue and a number of **GATE** databases will not be available. The Cameron Study Hall on the lower level of Cameron Library will be open regular hours.



Call for Nominations

Due at 5pm
February 13, 1998
Room 302K

Nomination packages are available at the Students' Union (Room 2-900) and from the Office of the Chief Returning Officer (Room 302K). For more information contact the Chief Returning Officer (492-7102) or cro@su.ualberta.ca

STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

Who can run in the General Election?

Any student is eligible to contest a position in the Students' Union elections provided they:

- have paid their Students' Union fees
- have no outstanding debts to the Students' Union
- are in satisfactory standing at the University of Alberta

What positions are available?

Five full-time executive positions are available, and an additional student seat on the Board of Governors.

The positions are as follows:

- President
- Vice-President External
- Vice-President Operations & Finance
- Vice-President Academic
- Vice-President Student Life
- Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative

Voting: March 4th and 5th

Let's talk about sex



Mimi Williams

Enough, already. We all know it's Valentine's Day this weekend, but there have got to be other people out there besides me who want to talk about something more urgent and compelling than romantic

love. Love doesn't interest me right now. I'm too damned busy to be chasing down such an abstract ideal. Love is indefinable, elusive, and besides, once you think you've found it, takes a shitload of energy to retain it. So forget love; I want to talk about sex.

It's not that I have anything against love. It's just that when confronted with the need to relieve a lot of stress — like after several continuous months of deadlines, screaming children and sleeping at night — I have never said to myself, "Gee, it sure would feel great to fall in love right now." Not once. And, I'll bet you haven't, either.

Now, I am a mom and take my position as a role model to my children very seriously, but they do go away overnight regularly and this was supposed to be so that I could

have a life. Two full days a month when I don't have to be a role model, I'm supposed to just have fun.

But, alas, I haven't had a lot of luck in the sex department in the last few years. My lack of activity might be because I'm older than most of the men I spend most of my time with. To this I say, I just wish that some of you guys on campus would watch 'The Graduate' with Dustin Hoffman the next time it's run on late night TV. Here's to you, Mrs. Robinson, indeed.

Or maybe it's because I'm more assertive than some other women. For example, one night last year, after one or six beers in RATT, I calmly and rationally propositioned a twenty-something man to come back to my place for 'coffee.' From the expression on his face, one would have thought I had asked him to drop himself into a vat of

sulphuric acid. He said I frightened him. I didn't want him any more. Wimp.

I did come really close to having sex awhile back. A former boyfriend and I had shared a romantic dinner and were settling down on the couch to, ahem, 'watch a movie.' While 'watching the movie,' he whispered something in my ear. Responding to what I had heard, I said that it didn't matter to me. Be-

"In the most thunderous moment of silence I have ever experienced, my lust-fed confusion lifted — I understood. He wasn't telling me that he had a hairpiece after all."

cause, when it comes down to sex, who really cares if someone is wearing a toupee? "You've always been so understanding," he said as he nuzzled my ear, "and Dr. Jones says it's okay as long as we're careful." In the most thunderous moment of silence I have ever experienced, my lust-fed confusion lifted — I understood. He wasn't telling me that he had a hairpiece after all. The moment will forever remain etched in my memory as anticlimactic in more ways than one.

So, here I am. Thirty-four years old and barreling down the highway towards my sexual peak. And my wheels keep falling off.

Well, anyway — have a Happy Valentine's Day, all you lovers out there. But take a moment to remember and pity this poor columnist. And, relieve some stress for me, will ya?

The user-friendly guide to the male erection

by
Theo Buchinkas

I love erections. No, I don't mean other people's erections, I mean my own erections.

Now, I've been getting erections for a pretty long time, and I've come to the conclusion that my penis has gained a mind of its own. From my own experience, and from talking with other guys, I've put together a list of the various phenomena associated with erections.

#1. The morning erection. I don't know if it's dreams, or those satin sheets, but I often wake up to find a tent pitched in my sheets. This can actually be a good thing, especially if you happen to have a girlfriend/boyfriend/animal friend staying the

night. It's a pretty fun way to start the morning.

#2. The full bladder erection. This sucks. Bad. Those three cokes you drank in class are coming back to haunt you, and Peter most certainly does not want to be pointed downward. Unless you can find yourself some ice, you're gonna end up doing a head stand over the toilet. (The quarterback huddle stance works as well.)

#3. The public transit erection. You're sitting on the bus, bored out of your mind, that plastic seat starts to warm up, everything is lurching and vibrating like crazy, and there's a cute girl across the aisle. Next thing you know, One-Eyed Willy is pointing at the very large, mean looking guy who is probably carrying a gun. This category includes the long car trip erection. Something about being on the

road seems to affect my unit.

#4. The swimming pool erection. Bad place — very bad place. Even worse if it happens to be at a hot tub party. There is no way you can hide this one — just stay in the water and pray. Try to find an old lady on the deck to look at. Failing that, just bash your head (either one) against the edge.

#5. The in-class erection. The prof is droning on about the algorithms or some other crap, and you happen to be sitting across from the cutest girl in the entire university. You snap out of your lustful gaze as your member bangs against the bottom of your desk, tilting it conspicuously. This almost always happens about 3 minutes before class ends, and you have to talk to the prof after class.

#6. The jogging erection. With all that bouncing and physical activity,

this one is bound to happen sometime. Ensuring you have adequate support can help eliminate this, but be prepared to dive head first into a shrub.

#7. The high school slow dance erection. Blast from the past. Thank god for dark, crowded clubs, where physical contact usually happens after dancing. (Or, at least, after a few beers.)

Best ways to banish an erection:

- a) Talk or stare him down: this takes control and will power, and is best done in private.
- b) Think about your mom. If this is what gave you the erection (shudder), think about your dad.
- c) Get drunk. Odds are, it will have gone down long before you're smashed, but it's a good excuse.
- d) Masturbate. Self explanatory, and fun too!

e) Ice / cold shower. If you've got the time and privacy to do this, you might as well jerk off.

f) Have sex. This is always a good way, but not always convenient.

If all else fails, hide it like so:

- a) The shirt untuck. Easy, inconspicuous, a classic.
- b) Remain seated. Easy, but looks suspicious, and not always possible.
- c) Casually carry a coat/book/cat in front of your inflamed crotch.
- d) Whip it out. If you can't hide it, show it off! (Only advisable if really drunk and in company of close friends, and never to be done at family functions.)

There ya have it, a fairly simple, self explanatory guide to the male erection. (Fun Fact: women get erections too!) Keep it in mind kids, cause you never know what the guy next to you is doing right now.

FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK

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for students applying to
Bachelor of Social Work Program
in Edmonton

FOR FALL, 1998

**FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 20, 1998
2:00 - 3:30 P.M.**

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Edmonton Division
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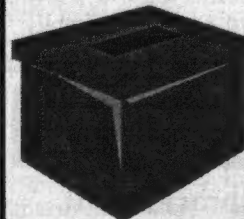
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HIRING ELECTION STAFF

The Students' Union Elections Office is now hiring for the position of **POLL CLERK** in the upcoming March 4 & 5 Election. We are looking for people who respect the need for fairness in elections and who are interested in earning some extra money. Anyone is qualified; you need only complete an application from the SU Executive Offices, Room 2-900 SUB, and submit a schedule of your availability to work between 8 AM and 9 PM on Wednesday, March 4 & Thursday, March 5. For more information feel free to call Chief Returning Officer at 492-7120 or e-mail cro@su.ualberta.ca



Reminder: The deadline for submission of Candidate Packages to the CRO is 5:00 PM, Friday, 13 February, 1998.

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Purity Test



Welcome to the annual Gateway Purity Test. The object of the test is to amuse and to give you an accurate reflection of your relative depravity. Take the test and compare your score with those of your friends. Don't forget to kick ass, be honest with yourself, and always to wear your underwear over your pants.

1. Have you ever been (gasp!) sexually aroused? 1 pt
2. Do you masturbate? 1 pt
3. How often do you masturbate:
Once a week? 1 pt
Twice? 2 pt
Thrice? 3 pt
and so on ...
4. Have you ever French kissed a member of the opposite gender? 3 pt
5. Are you a dendroctophile? 1 pt
6. Ever fucked? 3 pt
7. How many partners have you had:
One? 1 pt
Two? 2 pt
you get the point(s)

- means.
14. Have you ever received or performed analingus? 5 pt each
15. Are you a necrophile? 10 pt
16. Have you ever inserted or attempted to insert foreign objects in your rectum? (brush handle, wine bottle, spoon, Barbie doll, Gatorade bottle) 5 pt
17. Have you ever defecated in a place that was most definitely not a toilet, outhouse, bush or alley? (eg. sink, shoe, glove compartment) 3 pt
18. Have you ever paid for sex? 5 pt
19. Have you ever been paid for sex? 10 pt

- a butt plug? 3 pt
- Dildo? 2 pt
- Inflatable doll? 3 pt
- Sex swing? 4 pt
- Bondage/Dominatrix equipment? 5 pt
- "The Eazy Rider"? 5 pt
26. Have you ever tasted your own orgasmic secretions? 2 pt
27. Have you ever "let one rip" during sex? 2 pt (Hey, if you gotta go...)
28. Have you ever used a Swed-

- you" in order to get sex? 1 pt for every time you do it.
41. Have you ever snowballed? 5 pt (1 pt for knowing what it means.)
42. Have you ever taken photographs of your genitals / anus? 3 pt (5 pt if done with another person's camera?)
43. Have you ever had sex with the mail carrier, teacher, or a Jehovah's witness? 3 pt
44. Have you ever masturbated to



- ish Penis Enlarger Pump (this kind of thing is my bag, baby) 3 pt
29. Have you ever gotten into that whole beastiality thing? 10 pt
30. Have you ever gotten messed up on Ether (chloroform)? 5 pt
- LSD or 'Shrooms or Ecstasy? 4 pt each
- Pot or Hash? 2 pt each
- Coke or Crack? 5 pt each
- Heroin? 5 pt
- Speed? 3 pt
31. Have you ever successfully autofellated? 4 pt (1 pt for trying)
32. Are you a coprophage or coprophile? 10 pt
33. Have you ever been fisted? 5 pt
34. Have you ever fisted your partner? 3 pt
35. Have you ever had sex while watching porn? 3 pt
36. Ever masturbated in a public place? 5 pt (theatre, restaurant, film studies class)
37. Have you ever played Dungeons & Dragons? 2 pt (Perverted freak.)
38. Have you ever been arrested? 3 pt
39. Have you ever had an orgasm? 1 pt
40. Have you ever said "I love



- a National Geographic magazine? 2 pt
45. Are you an acrotophiliac? 5 pt (1 pt for knowing what it is.)
46. When someone is talking about the incest taboo, have you ever said, "Pbbt! Incest taboo!!" 1 pt
47. Are you a voyeur? 3 pt
48. Have you ever masturbated in

Index of debauchery

- 0 — 25 pt:
You're one of those people who believes that masturbation a real sin. Pretty damn lame. Try to leave the house at night.
- 26 — 50 pt:
Getting there, but still pretty innocent. You probably have had very little actual sex. Manual manipulation of sexual orifices and appendages is still your primary source of sexual gratification.
- 51 — 75 pt:
Not bad. You're right in the middle of the pack here, so don't worry. You're normal and safe and completely unimaginative. Good for you.
- 76 — 100 pt:
Now you're talking. You aren't afraid to try new things and be nasty with your lover. You also probably have a few hairbrushes lying around.
- 101 — 125 pt:
This is about where you want to be, if you want to call yourself wordly. Or gross.
- 125 pt and up:
You are sick deviant. Go join the Jim Rose Circus or something.

- front of a mirror? 1 pt
49. Have you ever teabagged? 4 pt (1 pt for knowing what it is.)
50. Have you ever had a "Swiss Chalet with a side of gravy?" 5 pt

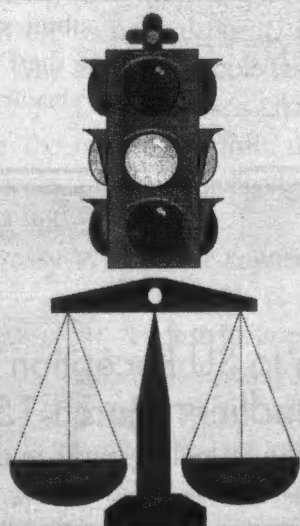
studiously compiled
by Nathaniel
Fairbairn and
Morton Von Hoff



8. Have you ever received fellatio or cunnilingus? 2 pt
9. Have you ever performed fellatio or cunnilingus? 3 pt
10. Have you ever masturbated while operating a motor vehicle? 4 pt
11. Have you ever felched, or been felched? 10 pt (1 pt if you know what it means.)
12. Have you ever engaged in watersports? (also known as the golden shower) 5 pt
13. How about a Roman shower? 10 pt (1 pt if you know what it
20. Have you ever had a one night stand with a person you either didn't know or didn't like? 5 pt
21. Have you ever been in a threesome or orgy? 5 pt
22. Ever have sex in a public place? 4 pt
23. Have you ever been in the bathroom so long that your Mom bangs on the door and shouts, "What the hell are you doing in there?!" 2 pt
24. Have you ever had anal sex? 5 pt
25. Have you ever bought or used

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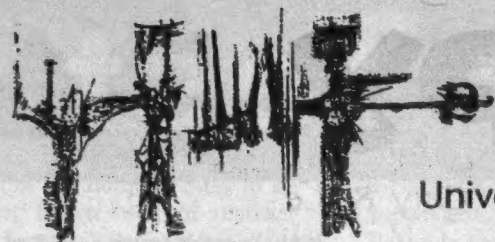
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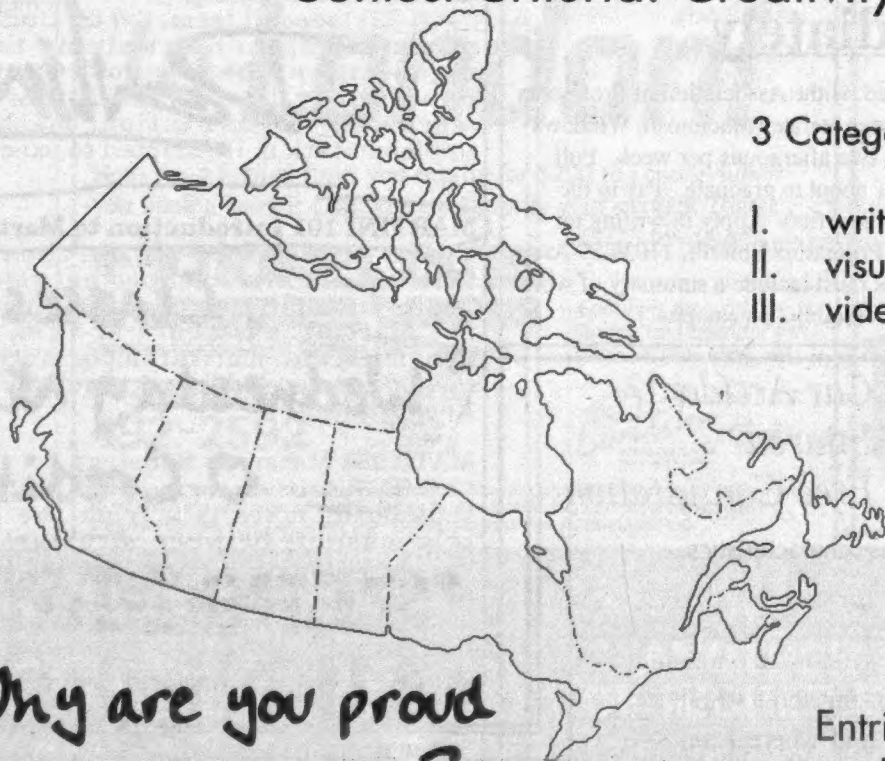
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EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW, IF
 YOU'RE NOT AFRAID TO ASK

the QUEER Side
 by @

Joanne Wotypka

So here we are again. Another week of "those" people and their issues. Are you uncomfortable with this? Maybe. Here I will buck the PC stance of the day and tell you that it's OK to be uncomfortable. People are naturally uncomfortable when confronted with what is, for them, the unfamiliar, the alien, the bizarre, the different. Does that make you homophobic? Certainly not. Just uniformed, or ignorant, and if I may paraphrase Margaret Atwood, "the difference between stupid and ignorant is that the ignorant can learn."

I'm not proposing that you learn to BE a gay man/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered person, but that you might want to learn ABOUT these things. It may mean reading a book (or this insert!), talking to a friend, surfing the net, or something else, but it's not difficult if you treat it just like any other unfamiliar subject. By learning (even at a superficial level) about new and different things, we take away the discomfort by removing some of the mystery as to what two women can do together, and I'm sure the opposite scenario applies as

well. (My advise to you all: RENT A MOVIE!)

What may be causing most of this discomfort is a failure to differentiate between sexual behaviour and sexual orientation. These are not interchangeable things. Everyone has their own sexual behaviours, regardless of orientation. One may chose to be promiscuous or abstinent, require complete monogamy or prefer an open relationship. One may brag about one's sexual prowess, or keep it private. Sex may be a requirement for a successful Saturday night, or something to be shared with that certain special someone. All sexual orientation indicates is the gender of the person you find sexually desirable. How we relate to that person is not determined by our orientation, but it does reflect upon our character, our respect for ourselves, and our respect for others.

So this week, watch the Drag Races. Stop by an information table for a chat. Accept free chocolate during the Kisses Campaign. You may do all or none of these things, but I hope that you'll think about what this week means, not just in grand social terms, but on the individual level of me and you.



RuPaul in Edmonton

WHY IDENTIFY?

Nancy Nassef

OUTreach: Hey Nanc, do you want to write an article for the supplement?

N: Yeah! Sure, what about?

OUTreach: Oh...I dunno...maybe something on bisexuality?

N: Alright...I seem to have a lot to say in that area....yeah....

Much time (and a lot of frustration) later Nancy is no where near a complete article...who are we kidding?...she was no where near a complete introduction.

So what's the problem here? I have a lot of knowledge and experience in that area. I spend a lot of my time advocating for bisexual acceptance from both the 'straight' and 'gay' communities. Why can't I write this article?

One of my professors made the following statement a couple of weeks ago...since then I have seen nothing but supporting evidence and it has really affected my world view.

My professor used the example of wave flags and stand behind banners (unless I have an active part in making them)...I suppose this is an appeal for others to do the same.

I don't know if this is quite what OUTreach is looking for...it's not very gay...but who's privilege/burden is it to define gay anyway?

This phenomenon transcends gender, in fact, it pervades every part of what we do. Perhaps it is the reason why so much emphasis is placed on naming things...if we know a spherical object, made of rubber, that bounces is a ball, we are no longer required to think about

what that object is per se. The same goes for humans; if one knows their sexual orientation one is released of the duty of trying to define it. I, for one, am tired of watching people take refuge in language. Defining one's characteristics does not release one from the duty of defending and/or exemplifying those characteristics.

Where's the connection?

I refuse to stop thinking about who I am, what I stand for, and where I am going in life nor will I be limited to titles. I refuse to take refuge in something as transient as language. I am not here to

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A SUCCESS STORY

"Robert"

Coming out was one of the most wonderful and confusing things I have ever done in my life. I realize that I have had a homosexual orientation most of my life, but I was only able to admit this to myself last August. I realize that since coming out to myself, I have become a more confident and genuine person, as I am now more accepting of who I really am.

I grew up in a small town where homosexuality was generally thought of as being unacceptable, strange and evil. This community was very 'masculine' in nature, especially since the oil industry and military played such an important role to its economy. I grew up in a very 'traditional' family, one where my father worked and my mother stayed home to raise the children. I went to a catholic high-school and there, I was taught that homosexuality was a challenge that God gives to some, and that those who are homosexual are to overcome this challenge by remaining celibate (or to have relations only with the opposite sex, perhaps?). I played many of the usual sports throughout junior high and high school, including hockey, basketball, and soccer and skiing. I never really did, however, feel that I was

always "part of the group". I felt that there was something a bit different about me (it may have been that I was attracted to some members of my hockey team). The environment that I grew up in was a rather conservative, religious environment where homosexuality was generally not accepted.

After university classes ended in April 1997, I found out that one of my best friends had committed suicide. I found this hard to deal with. This, along with other circumstances in my life, led me to look at who I was as a person. I began to realize that I wanted to change who I was as a person, and I began to explore who that person was. I became something of a 'party person', drinking a lot and doing drugs, and my life became very confusing. Even though I had several very good friends, I still felt very alone. I began to get very confused. I did not know where my life was going, and I was afraid that I had become an alcoholic. I also realized that I had fallen in love with one of my best friends, who is also male. I was not sure what I was going to do. I became suicidal. Fortunately I did not go through with this.

I had read in some article that 'coming out' was an excellent experience, one which would greatly benefit a

person who is homosexual. At the time I read this, I did not really believe that this would be the case for me. I did, however find that coming out to oneself can allow one to be at peace, and be a better person.

After I began to show signs of obvious pain, one of my best friends who are 'transgender'). I have met asked my why I was having such many wonderful people there, and I problems. I told her that I could not tell anyone this problem, and that I might tell her some time in the future. After some guesswork, she asked me, jokingly, if I was gay. I responded "you're half right" jokingly back (with much courage on my part, I might add). I could not believe that I had told her that I was bisexual. I was afraid, and I did not know why. I told her that she was the only person in the world that I would tell. That ended up not being the case, however.

I began to feel better about myself after having told this friend, but I still felt bad about myself. I believed that all homosexuals were sinners. I had been raised that way, and for years I had prayed to God that I not be this way. Nevertheless, I told another friend, and then another. After having told five of my closest friends, I was astonished to find out that two of them were also bisexual! I no longer felt alone in this world, and I was able to talk to them

about their experiences. I was fortunate to have this support, indeed!

I came out in the beginning of August, and I was back to university this September. I began attending OUTreach regularly (the campus club for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and those obvious pain, one of my best friends who are 'transgender'). I have met learned to accept myself, as well as homosexuality in general.

Since coming out, I have found that I have become more confident and caring. I am better able to talk to people and I am better able to deal with problems that arise in my life. I am more accepting of who I am in general. I am happier, healthier, and I do not drink (hardly) any more or do drugs. I know that I am now better able to love others now that I love myself. Coming out truly has changed my life for the better. I would encourage anyone who is of a homosexual orientation to at least come out to themselves, and admit to themselves who they really are. Accepting and loving oneself allows one to truly love others. I know that coming out has changed my life, and I am forever grateful that I did.

EXTENDING THE FAMILY

Rhonda NuGent

My experience coming out was, and still is full of surprises. I was 25 years old when I finally found the courage to tell other people what I had been feeling for years. I don't know what exactly I expected. Shock? Hatred? Laughter? After all, I was a young lesbian in the Southern Alberta Bible Belt, in a province that refuses to protect basic human rights on the basis of sexual orientation. I had reason to be apprehensive. To my delight, what I received was nothing but support and love. All of my friends took it in stride, and I was almost disappointed when my mother said, "Yup, that's what I thought". I was happy, and I was in love, and that was all that mattered.

Whew! That was easy! I quickly began to try on new labels: lesbian, homosexual, dyke; plunged myself into human rights issues, bought a lot of plaid flannel, and started for the first time to really enjoy who I am.

Then my mother said, "Whoa". She was worried about my being so open. "If you wear your heart on your sleeve, you take the chance that someone will hurt you," she warned. She advised me not to tell my aunts, because her sisters might not be open minded enough. She didn't think I should tell my oldest brother, because he has young children, and what would he tell them? She thought it would be asking for trouble if my partner and I were to hold hands in public. Suddenly, I was confused. This was the same woman who brought me up to be honest, and to be true to myself. Why was she now trying to silence me?

It was difficult to explain to my mother how I felt about this. She told me she loved me, that she accepted my choice of a same-sex life partner, and yet she wanted me to deny that part of myself in front of other people. She wanted me to lie. This is the first and only time in my life that I felt my mother was ashamed of me. My partner and I both firmly believe that the only reason to

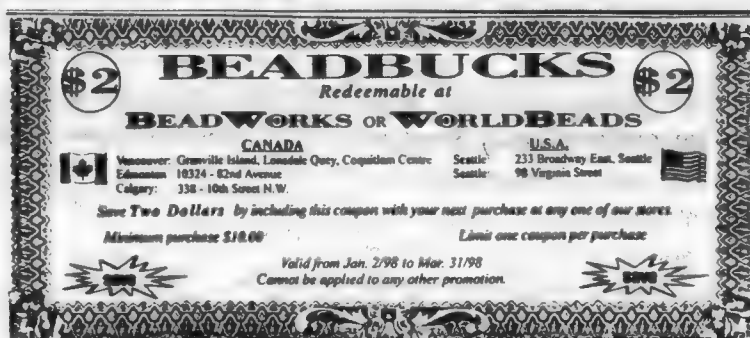
hide our relationship would be if we felt it was wrong. We don't, and therefore refuse to apologize for the fact that we love each other. When I said this to mother she was taken aback. She cried when she admitted to me that accepting this part of me wasn't as easy as she thought it would be.

It took me some time to realize that my mother, like I had, was going through a coming out process of her own. After all, it had taken me 25 years to learn to be myself, and I was expecting her to accept it overnight. Like all parents, she had dreams for her children: a good education, a happy marriage, children of their own...Now she would have to alter those visions as they applied to me. I learned from this that my mother needed my acceptance as much as I needed hers.

Fortunately, over the past three years I have been able to show her that I do have all of the things that she dreamt of. I have a *gulp* \$34 000 education and a promising future as a theatre artist, I have a wonderful relationship that we consider to be a marriage (wedding to come...) and children... well, we have two beautiful cats that Mom now affectionately calls her "grandkids". In other words, I have been able to show her that her skills as a parent have not failed me, and she has shown me that she is happy for her daughter.

My partner is now an integral part of my family, as I am in hers. It warms my heart to know that my young nieces adore her because I do, and treat her as another auntie. It matters not to them where we sleep. I'm tickled to know that should anyone make a tasteless remark about homosexuals around my mother-in-law, she would pummel them into the ground with her riding boots. And my own mother, in her quiet way, shows pictures of us with our cats to all of her friends, saying, "This is my daughter's family".

This, my friends, is how we change the world. One person at a time, one family at a time.



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TYPICAL

Jarrett Krauss

Meet Micheal. He's 17 and starting to get tired of the same old routine. He's at that rebellious stage of his life. He's dying to be different. Today he has decided to "be gay". Sure he's been dating girls, he actually has a steady girlfriend right now. Just for the hell of it, he wants to be "different". Boy will this piss his parents off! He can just see the looks on their faces when he tells them! Wait until they see him in his new women's clothes. Boy will they freak!

Micheal easily adjusts to the "lifestyle". He has become really "swish" and he talks with a lisp now. He's at the bar every night picking up tricks. Funny, since he started being gay, he has developed an insatiable appetite for sex. He just can't get enough. The only time he's not in the bar is at the weekly recruitment meeting. Hell, he gets valuable points for every guy he can convert. They are great prizes to be won too, like trips to San Francisco and Key West.

Meet Lisa. She rides her motorcycle to school and loves to wear baggy jeans and flannel tops.

She hates men. That's why she wants to be artificially inseminated to have kids. She wants to have at least three kids and bring them all up gay. She knows it will be hard to raise those kids alone. Her relationships never seem to last. Oh well, it's better than getting married. She hates the idea of the traditional family. She does everything she can to undermine traditional "family values".

People wonder why Lisa is so bitter and unhappy. Maybe it was her childhood. You know her mother was so over-

bearing and her dad was never around. Her family was definitely dysfunctional. No wonder she has been in therapy for so long.

Say Hi to John. He's off to his psychiatrist for another appointment. He has had these "gay feelings" now for a long time and they are not going away. His therapist is very supportive and insists that he can cure John of his homosexuality. "It's just a phase, don't worry, we'll fix you." The therapist has tried shock therapy and hypnosis. It hasn't really helped but he knows it just takes time. He knows it is just like any other mental illness. Sometimes these things are difficult to cure, but it can be done.

Meanwhile, John is getting impatient. He joins a support group. They have a 12 - step program to help him. He goes every week and listens to the testimony of other ex-gays who have overcome it. He has to pray a lot and really trust God. That's all it takes, they tell him. Have faith and you will be cured. Sometimes they get mad at John when he's not improving. They worry about him. They don't want him to end up like the rest of those gay people. God knows they are all perverts and child molesters. God has given them all AIDS to punish them. John will end up just like them if he doesn't change.

Tonight they have a guest speaker. An evangelical minister has come to tell them how important their work is. He tells them how serious this problem is. "Gays and Lesbians are taking over! They are recruiting our children for their deviant lifestyle! Militant activists are gaining ground in their demands for special rights. We have to fight against this or homosexuality will spread like the plague.

God help us win this war against Satan!" John feels a bit sick after the speech. Is he really that bad? He believes in God. He prays for a cure. It's just not happening. They tell him it's his fault. They tell him he lacks faith. He has to believe. He can be cured, he just has to pray harder.

These stories are "typical" in that sense that they are "stereotypical." They contain not facts, but close to twenty popularly held beliefs about gays and lesbians. All these beliefs are essentially myths but they still pervade our culture. Lets look at our characters again and separate the fiction from the fact.

Lets start with Micheal. Could he "choose" to be gay? No, he couldn't choose that any more than I could chose to be straight. We don't choose it, it's just the way we are. Is it true that all gay men dress like women? Some do, we call them drag queens, and they do what they do mostly for entertainment. Some of them are fabulous at what they do, but most of us are content to dress like men.

So what about the "homosexual lifestyle"? Well first, there isn't one. Gays and lesbians are a diverse bunch. We have a some commonalities among us, but each of our lives are different. It isn't that easy to pick us out based upon a stereotype. Many of us are invisible, you wouldn't know we were gay or lesbian unless we told you.

Are gay men marauding sex maniacs? I would say generally, no. Many of us are in long term relationships. Gay men aren't all sluts and they don't all have AIDS. Do we recruit? Don't be ridiculous. What about Lisa? Are all lesbians a bunch of men haters? Hardly. If she has kids, she won't have any influence over

their sexual orientation. Her kids are more likely to be straight than gay. Are her relationships always doomed "not to last?" Many gays and lesbians have very stable relationships. I know a gay couple who have been together for 45 years. That's almost five times as long as my parents stayed married.

Do we undermine the family? Well we weren't all hatched or raised by Martians. One of the biggest heartbreaks for gay and lesbian people is family rejection. It's devastating. Our families are important to us. We didn't all come from "unhappy" homes either nor are we all "psychologically disturbed." Are we all "mentally ill" like John? Homosexuality was removed from the list of mental disorders in 1975. The American Psychological Association now reprimands any psychologist who "treats" homosexuality. Therapy doesn't work. It never has. It never will.

The 12 step programs I spoke of just inspire guilt and despair. Prayer isn't going to change us anymore than therapy is. Are we all child molesters and perverts? Actually, most pedophiles are married men. Are all gay men going to die of AIDS? A lot have died, but not everyone is infected. It's not a "gay disease." Anyone can get it.

And what of those demands for "special rights"? Well would you call the right to employment, housing and domestic partner benefits special rights? We don't think they are. We just want the same rights as everyone else has in this democracy. Nothing more, nothing less. All we want is equality and acceptance.

the QUEER Side
by @



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WE ARE BORG. YOU WILL BE ASSIMILATED

Linda Tran
Samuel Ho

Two of the executive members of OUTreach got together to discuss how being queer is affected by being Asian. This is what they came up with.

L: Do you notice that the number of "out" Asian gays and lesbians is very limited even in our western world?

S: I think coming out is big enough of a hurdle for everyone, but even more catastrophic for Asians. It likely has to do with the cultural differences between westerners and Asians.

L: For one thing, individualism is less prevalent, even irrelevant, in Chinese society. The way Chinese society traditionally operates is based on the philosophy of Confucius. Namely, the family is central to everything we do. Very "Borg"-like indeed!

S: If someone does well, the whole family has a part in the success. You know, glory of the child equals glory of the parent. If a kid does badly, then "there must be something wrong with the parents!"

L: You must have encountered instances when you are introduced to someone new, he or she would say: "All the Asians I've met are smart and rich."

S: Of course that has happened to me. I guess they just haven't met the dumb ones yet...

L: That's the way Asian parents show affection towards their children, by buying them anything that they ask for, pushing them through school, to become doctors, lawyers, engineers. Rarely do you see hugging, kissing, or even a simple "I love you!" Very materialistic.

S: That's Confucius' fault too! He thinks parents are to be awed at and respected. In fact, he suggested that parents should be treated like kings and queens, to be obeyed. If they are too affectionate with their children, it would destroy this very authoritative relationship.

L: No wonder communism thrived in Asia.

S: Another cultural hurdle for Asians to come out has to do with one family in relation to society as a whole.

L: Much of what we do is aimed at displaying wealth and success, particularly children's, to other families. The "face" factor!

S: Don't even mention being gay! Simply wearing more flamboyant clothing or dying your hair would raise such a controversy, since they are not considered "mainstream" or acceptable.

L: That is why coming out is such a horrific experience for Asians. It's the most "shameful" thing that can happen to a family!

S: As a matter of fact, when I came out to my mom, she accused me of putting her in such an awkward position, of having to explain to her friends and family. My mom even thinks that I was corrupted by western culture!

L: So did my parents! They said: "We wouldn't have brought you to Canada if we knew you would turn gay!"

S: And my mom really tried to put me down, saying my life is ruined. But I reasoned with her, what had changed really? Besides her presumptions and expectations of me had shattered, nothing had changed. I'm still the same person, still work hard, still have accomplished academically and professionally. I'm not as decadent as she thinks all homosexuals are. Well I didn't tell her about my personal life though...

L: Same over here. When my found out a girlfriend of mine was well off, smart, attractive, a registered nurse, a medical student, and most importantly Chinese, she had nothing bad to say.

S: I guess the best way to come out for gays and lesbians, not just Asians, is to first establish yourself professionally and financially. In case anything happens, like the family kicking you out, you can take care of yourself. Besides, being emotionally stable and strong, so that you won't get pushed around emotionally and ending up getting hurt.

A LETTER FROM A FRIEND

Kristy Wuetherick

Why is it that when faced with something, or someone, who is different, so many people turn their backs with disgust and disapproval? This is a human phenomena that I have never understood. If everyone was exactly the same, wouldn't the world be a boring and monotonous place to live? This is why I tend to value that which is different from me, be it race or sexual orientation — it adds something interesting, fun, and most of all different to my life.

When a friend of mine asked me to write something about what it means to me, as a heterosexual female, to be gay-positive and to have close friends who are gay, I had a difficult time figuring out what to write. Being gay-positive has never been something that I have had to really think about or work at. It is just something that comes naturally to me. I just think that it is unfortunate that there are so many people who do have trouble with the concept.

For me, it is not about whether someone is gay or straight; it is about friendship. Friends, I believe, give you the freedom to be who you are, accept that you are who you are, and love you all the more for it. If you are hung up on the fact that someone you know is gay, I feel sorry for you because you are probably missing out on an amazing friendship. Think about it.

QUEER IN REZ -SIDERITE

SIDERITE representatives

Imagine living in close contact with 35 people. You eat with them, you share a bathroom with a third of them, you party with them, you study with them, you become friends with them. You become family. This is residence and it is a way of life for many students on campus. Residence can be the most rewarding experience of your life. It can also be the most challenging. These 35 people suddenly become one of the most important parts of your life and you want them to like you. Now imagine being different from them. Imagine being gay, lesbian or bisexual.

One of the great things about residence is the diversity that comes together to form a single community. This requires tolerance, respect and understanding, something that is not always present. A group called SIDERITE was formed in September 1997 to help fill this gap for the gay, lesbian and bisexual students of Lister Hall and other University of Alberta residences. SIDERITE is a social and support network for these students, providing social opportunities through informal meetings and events. We go for coffee at Muddy Waters, just to hang out and be able to talk without worrying about what we say. Trips are planned, like bowling at Gateway Lanes and a night out

clubbing at 109.

Beyond the social aspect of SIDERITE, it is our goal to raise awareness and acceptance of the gay, lesbian and bisexual community. Last semester an information session was held with guest speakers from Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays (PFLAG), Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton (GLCCE), and OUTreach. The topic was "Sexual Orientation — Welcome to Diversity," and was held to discuss homophobia in residence and to announce the formation of SIDERITE. This semester an information package was assembled and given to the floor coordinators and administration of the residence system. These packages contained pamphlets and articles on sexual identity, safety issues and counseling, as well as several contact numbers for other community groups in Edmonton. Included in the package was a rainbow sticker, giving people the opportunity to place it on their door if they felt they could provide a safe and understanding area for gay, lesbian and bisexual residents.

If you live in residence and wish to find out more about SIDERITE, watch for posters with upcoming events. Articles also appear in the Lighthouse, the Lister Hall community newspaper. You can also contact the Wellness Centre in Lister for more information.

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LOOKING UNDER THE SKIRT

Under the Skirt

by Shawna Dempsey and Lorri Millan

starring Shawna Dempsey
at the Catalyst Theatre
February 4 to 8

by Karen Foster

"Two thousand years of patriarchy haven't dampened my sense of style," announced Shawna Dempsey from behind a tightly wound sheath of plastic wrap studded with four-inch nails.

A feminist and lesbian dressed in clear plastic wrap? Yes, and she looked and sounded both frightening and fantastic. Shawna Dempsey and Lorri Millan's latest collaboration *Under the Skirt* was a combination of performance pieces and short films.

The dresses appearing in the production stood on their own as pieces of art, but together with Dempsey's witty and often harshly spoken words, *Under the Skirt* showed how women's clothing is a powerful oppressive device.

Every dress contained a particular kind of woman, all of whom were played by Dempsey. Each woman explained how she was suppressed, and how she was able to transgress her prescribed role — whether she was the perfect housewife, virginal debutante, Barbie doll bride, or tough sex symbol.

The show began quietly with Millan screwing Dempsey into an abhorrent dress. With the dress, Dempsey took on the persona of a supposedly happy housewife who likened a marriage to driving a car. Only one person can drive (the man of course) and if the passenger (the woman) begins to distract him or try to take the steering wheel from him, the car goes out of control and crashes. The woman has an important role because she gives the driver food and entertains him while he drives. But on the flip side, she can't go anywhere if the driver isn't in the car.

Dempsey's nakedness, hidden only by the wrinkles in her clear plastic wedding dress, didn't shock the audience as I thought it might. The audience immediately accepted

the clever presentation of a woman constantly adorned with clothes to cover up her true identity.

Dempsey and Millan's work was very funny, but I could only smile occasionally at the characters' comments on their predicaments. The production's insights on how women allow themselves to be fashioned into restricting roles were often so accurate and bleak that they left a sick feeling in the pit of my stomach.

Dempsey took on the persona of a supposedly happy housewife who likened marriage to driving a car.

Dempsey and Millan's films played between the performance pieces, but weren't directly related to them. Each piece was initially conceived and shown separately prior to this show. This gave the evening a rather confused feel. While Dempsey and Millan are superb filmmakers, I was also disappointed that they showed films that had already been shown on television.

Still, there was an interesting tension between the performance pieces and the films that I would not have picked up had I seen each piece separately. The performances showed women repressed by traditional roles while the films depicted women freely expressing their sexuality. This made the entire show much more uplifting than simply seeing unhappy women in traditional dresses and correspondingly traditional roles.

Accepting the fact that Dempsey and Millan are multi-media artists and that *Under the Skirt* was meant to be a collage of works, I was delighted with what I saw. As it often is with a visit to the art gallery, *Under the Skirt* urged me to think about what I was seeing, and maybe even to take a peek under my own skirt to see how I experience a society that tells me how I should look and feel.



Shawna Dempsey in *Under the Skirt*.

Christie Schultz

DREAMLAND SATURDAY NIGHTS DELVES INTO LOVE AND THE GREAT MOVIE CLASSICS

Dreamland Saturday Nights

written by David Belke

directed by John Hudson

starring Amy Berger,
Matt Baram, Kerry Ann Doherty,
and Patrick Howarth
at the Varscona Theatre
playing until February 15

by Christine Mazur

"I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship." It was the perfect line to end a great romantic-comedy. Edmonton playwright David Belke deftly incorporates segments of well-known old movies into his clever and insightful script to tell the whimsical story of a couple of movie lovers who eventually fall in love with each other.

Dreamland Saturday Nights introduces us to the dreary world of greeting-card store clerk Dorothy Bass (Amy Berger, U of A grad and *Theatre Sports* regular). Her only escape from her lonely, uneventful existence is in spending her Saturday nights at the Dreamland, an old movie theatre that shows old classics. Dorothy, named after Judy Garland's dog-loving character from *Kansas*, meets film student Charlie Foster, who analy-



The cast of *Dreamland Saturday Nights*.

Christie Schultz

ses the old film classics for her, dissecting them into the parts of their physical and practical composition, their angles, lighting textures, and *mise en scene*. However, Dorothy simply expresses delight in the story line and the emotions and passions of the characters.

Dorothy soon falls in love with the talkative Charlie and begins to struggle with the painful task of communicating her feelings to him. Her problem is in discovering how he feels about her because she fears the embarrassment of rejection. Another problem lies in the attractive concession-stand clerk Billie Cassin (Kerry Ann Doherty), who starts chasing Charlie when she discovers his father is a wealthy corporate real-estate owner.

Throughout her struggles, Dorothy confides in the theatre projectionist (Patrick Howarth), who turns out to be a ghost from the theatre's past. Dorothy is the only person who can see him and the host of other theatre ghosts like

Betty Grable (played expertly by a teeth-clenching Doherty), and Fred Astaire (a light-footed Howarth). All the ghosts counsel or nag at Dorothy to encourage her and instill confidence in her or to lament about their own bruised egos and bitterness.

I found that the characters were not particularly sympathetic, but they are certainly amusing to watch. Dorothy's first moments on the stage draw laughter by the almost neurotic preciseness with which she settles down to enjoy the movie, arranging her napkins and popcorn. Charlie is boundlessly enthusiastic when in the theatre, but a darkness descends over his mood when we find out about the unhappy relationship he has with his father. Both he and Dorothy become lost souls searching for something that can only be found through movies.

Much of the dialogue is scattered with famous lines from old films, so if you're a movie buff, you can test your knowledge to see if you can catch all the references. Despite its lightness, the play tries to get at some universal issues about love and relationships.

There is some excellent work in *Dreamland Saturday Nights* — good acting, a good set and incredible lighting done by the playwright himself.

THE WORLD OF HOLLY MCNARLAND

DOGS' ASSES AND BODY PIERCINGS

An interview with Holly McNarland

by Christie Schultz

Christie (CS): So, how did you get into this business?

HM: Mainly, I've just always done it. I started playing guitar and connecting with other musicians and it just sort of snowballed from there.

CS: Where did you start playing, then?

HM: I played at cafés and a place called the Blue Note, and other little places in Winnipeg.

CS: How about your influences? What are your musical motivations?

HM: Pretty much anything. Ani DiFranco is a big influence.

CS: Why DiFranco?

HM: I just love her. She did something different that nobody was doing. She just caught my attention.

CS: The dog on the cover — is that your dog?

HM: Yup. That's Owen.

CS: Why is Owen's butt on the back cover?

HM: Because his face was on the front. The photographer wasn't happy with me. I don't know if it was supposed to get a reaction, but it sort of made sense. His face on the front and his ass on the back.

CS: So, who's Elmo? (One of Holly's songs is called "Elmo.")

HM: Elmo was this old guy we met in San Francisco. He was just sort of this inspirational old guy that we talked to for a little while. The whole song's not about him, but it started off that way.

CS: Where did you meet him?

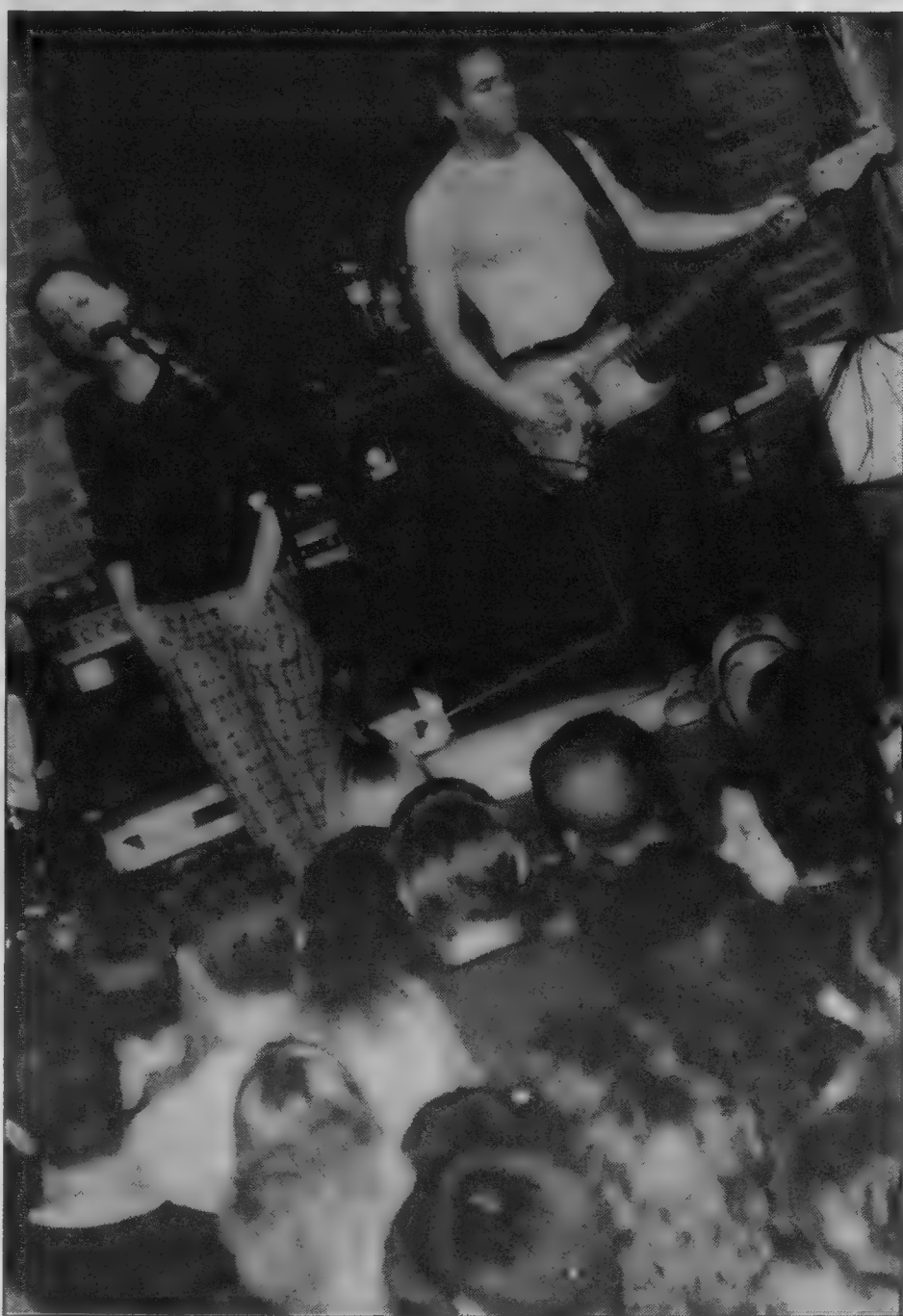
HM: He was a friend of the drummer's grandfather or great-grandfather and we stayed at his house.

CS: So there's no connection to the Sesame Street Elmo?

HM: No. (laughs.)

CS: Oh, your lip ring. Did it hurt?

HM: Yeah, it hurts like a bitch just for a couple seconds, then it [the pain] goes away. It gets all swollen and you have to take care of it.



Joel Higham

Aside from the tables on the dance floor, Holly McNarland's show at the Power Plant last Tuesday received good reviews from fans.

CS: Do you consider yourself successful?

HM: As soon as you start playing live, you're successful. I mean, as soon as you're doing what you want to do, you've succeeded.

CS: Do you get recognized a lot?

HM: Sometimes. By this guy (points to guy at next table who takes his cue and waves. Both laugh). It's happening more.

CS: Any other fun stories?

HM: I met a girl at this exact bar, actually. Her name, I think it was Rebecca. She moved to Halifax, I think. She could guess the size of any man's penis. She guessed my entire band; she guessed the Matthew Good band. I was touring with them at the time.

CS: How does she do that?

HM: She just guesses. She just has this wicked ability. I wanted to take her on the road. I was single at the time.

LIVE MUSIC REVIEW

Holly McNarland
with the Gandharvas
at the Power Plant
February 10

by Dave Alexander

Who was that beautiful barefooted nymph with a child-sized frame and a voice powerful enough to split timber? Her name is Holly McNarland, and Tuesday night at the Power Plant she sang with such intensity and ferocity that it seemed as if her body and the whole building was going to splinter under the strain. During long vocals on songs like "Coward" or "Elmo," her body strained and contorted Joe Cocker fashion. It was only by some miracle that her tonsils didn't fly out, blinding someone near the stage.

And just as well, as she sang her edgy material, she proved that she was equally capable of softer, restrained vocals on "Water" or even an angry drawl on a funkified version of "Mr. Five-Minutes." Her final song was a hypnotic ten-minute version of Phil Collin's "I Can Feel It Coming in the Air Tonight."

The coolest part of the show was the song in the first encore when Holly switched places with the drummer, who then did the vocals, in Croatian, in a cover version of Van Halen's "Running With the Devil." It takes a special kind of band with enough self-confidence to pull off such a feat. It's that same self-assured attitude that characterized Holly McNarland and her backing band.

Holly strutted around the stage spitting, fearlessly picking her nose, dislodging many wedgies, and talking about genitalia between songs. Of the 14 songs performed, fans who own her first EP noticed the absence of their first single "Stormy."

Aside from that, the only other somewhat disappointing aspect of the show were The Gandharvas, who were the opening act. I'm not a big fan of their alterna-hippie-head-rock. I was going to give them a chance, but unfortunately, they built their set simply around a couple of hits like "First Day of Spring" and "Waiting for Something to Happen." Most of the other songs sounded too similar to these, or turned into long experimental filler that consisted of too much rock-star wailing. The lead singer, who sounded like Perry Farrell, had a stage presence best described with a slogan like "I'm gaunt; I'm white; now watch me dance." All in all, I'd say The Gandharvas were talented, but perhaps misguided.

On a final note to the Power Plant, I think I speak for everyone at the show when I say this: move the damn tables off the dance floor. If you wanted us to be that crowded and uncomfortable, you could have just held the show in the tour bus.

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For Richer or Poorer Coarse language Sat/Sun 11:30 Daily 2:05, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55 Midnight (Saturday ONLY) 12:00	Seven Years in Tibet (PG) Daily 4:15, 9:45 Midnight (Saturday ONLY) 12:20
Home Alone 3 (PG) Sat/Sun 11:35 Daily 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 9:40 Midnight (Saturday ONLY) 11:55	Alien Resurrection (14A) Gory Violence and Coarse Language Daily 7:15, 9:45 Midnight (Saturday ONLY) 12:10
Kiss the Girls (14A) Sat/Sun 11:10 Daily 1:40, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30 Midnight (Saturday ONLY) 12:05	Bean (PG) Sat/Sun 12:05 Daily 2:30, 5:00
Fairy Tale (A True Story) (G) Sat/Sun 12:00 Daily 2:20, 4:50	I Know What You Did Last Summer (14A) Coarse Language and Violent Scenes Daily 7:10, 9:25 Midnight (Saturday ONLY) 11:50

February 19 to February 19, 1998

REPLACEMENT KILLERS OFFERS ARTFUL DIRECTION

FILM

The Replacement Killers
written by Ken Sanzel
directed by Antoine Fuqua
starring Chow Yun-Fat,
Mira Sorvino, and Michael Rooker
now playing at Cineplex Odeon

by Farhan Daya and Hussein Juma

How Yun-Fat is one cool hombre. If you're addicted to the Hong Kong action genre, then you can get your fix Hollywood-style with *The Replacement Killers*.

Chow (*The Killer, A Better Tomorrow*) plays John Lee, a professional assassin who must fulfill mob boss Terence Wei's (Kenneth Tsang) deadly vendetta in exchange for Lee's family's safety. When he refuses to complete the task, Wei sends in the replacement killers and Lee is forced to run for his life.

Mira Sorvino plays Meg Coburn, a document forger who helps Lee on his moral journey. For those who aren't familiar with Chow's work, he commands the respect of a Bogey or a McQueen in his earlier work. A lot of rumours went around that Chow's lines in the film were kept to a minimum because of his underdeveloped grasp of the English language. This may be true, but it's unfair. Chow's English is more than adequate and, in fact, his character's lack of speaking parts denotes a tortured inner self and a reserved disposition. His character comes off more as the anti-hero of a spaghetti western: "the man with no name." What Chow lacks in speaking lines, he makes up for in facial expressions. If there was an Oscar for being the coolest-looking badass pegging off thugs double-gun style, he would win by a landslide, hands down, no doubt about it. He's the man.

Sorvino also puts in a commendable acting job. No other actress could've filled the



Frank Masi, courtesy of Columbia pictures

Hong Kong superstar Chow Yun-Fat is fast on his way to becoming a Hollywood superstar.

shoes of Meg Coburn as well as Sorvino does. She complements Chow and there's no unrealistic and unnecessary love story between them, either.

When we heard that the director of this film, Antoine Fuqua, also directed Coolio's "Gangsta's Paradise" video, we wondered what the hell could he possibly do for action god Chow-Chow? Well, step aside Karl Malone: Fuqua's the new mailman and he delivers big time. Fuqua's direction is like an interpretation of the Hong Kong action genre with a few of his own touches thrown in. This film is beautiful

to look at because of Fuqua's keen use of lighting (which definitely will be known as his signature) and slow motion.

Images of red and green neon light caress the rain-drenched pavement and reflect onto faces, creating a sombre and moody atmosphere. Oddly enough, for an utterly stylized action flick, this emotion-evoking use of lighting gives the film a *Taxi Driver*-ish feel.

The settings for the shootouts in this film are the most original ones we've seen in a while (there's a car wash and a theatre, to

name a few). And unlike other action blockbusters, the camera work in this film is not all slick and fluid. There are a lot of shaky handheld shots, reminiscent of *Seven*, which give the film an intense, in-your-face vibe.

This film is not a story injected with action sequences. It's a story built around action sequences. The style of this film is multi-layered, but the story isn't. It's like the direction achieves the status of art, but the story doesn't. This does not ruin the film, but had the story been multi-layered as well, this film could have been a masterpiece instead of a kickass action flick.

BLUES BROTHERS 2000 SCORES WITH MUSIC, NOT LAUGHS

FILM

Blues Brothers 2000
written by Dan Aykroyd and John Landis
directed by John Landis
starring Dan Aykroyd, John Goodman,
Joe Morton, and J. Evan Bonifant
now playing at Cineplex Odeon
by James Friesen

I'll be the first to admit I know absolutely nothing about the jazz or blues music scene, but I, nevertheless, loved the original *Blues Brothers* movie for its humour. Having said that, I must say I was looking forward to *Blues Brothers 2000*.

The movie picks up 18 years after the first movie left off. Elwood (Dan Aykroyd) Blues gets released from prison. No one has told him that his brother Jake has died and he waits outside the prison until he is picked up by a dancer from Willy's Club (Willy being the drummer in the Blues Brothers Band). Elwood visits the Penguin (a.k.a. Mother Mary Stigmata) — the nun who ran the orphanage where Elwood and Jake grew up. Elwood also meets Buster (J. Evan Bonifant), taking him on as a protégé. Later, Elwood

finds out that his mentor Curtis (Cab Calloway) has died and left behind an illegitimate child named Cabel (Joe Morton). Elwood visits Cabel and is promptly thrown out on his ass. He gets a job at Willy's club and meets Mighty Mac McTeer (John Goodman). Shortly thereafter, the club is torched by the Russian Mafia, and Elwood sets out to reassemble the band.

He gets the band back together and heads to Louisiana to participate in Queen Mousette's (Erykah Badu) Battle of the Bands. During this trip, he must avoid the Russians, various state and federal police forces, and a renegade group of survivalists.

As I am not a music fanatic like others I

know, I missed identifying many of the music greats co-starring in this film, but the big names included Eric Clapton, B.B. King, Shann Johnson, Travis Tritt, Steve Winwood, and Blues Traveler. The jam session near the end of the movie rocks, as do several musical interludes including Aretha Franklin doing "Respect," James Brown preaching "John the Revelator," and Blues Traveler singing "Maybe I'm Wrong." Amazingly, the Blues Brothers, Aykroyd, Goodman, Morton, and Bonifant all do quite well when called upon to participate in song.

The film, while great musically, falls

down on the comedy aspect. The Russian Mafia replace the neo-Nazis and a militia type survivalist group surfaces in place of the Good Ole' Boys. Neither group is nearly as funny as their predecessors. With 'Joliet' Jake having passed, there is no crazed Carrie Fisher hunting them down either.

Unfortunately, *Blues Brothers 2000* does not compare to the original *Blues Brothers*. If you are looking forward to seeing the funny sequel to *Blues Brothers*, you going to be disappointed. However, if you just want to go see a kick-ass blues musical showcasing some of the brightest musical stars of the last thirty years, I recommend this film.

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Albums

Midnight Oil
20,000 Watt R.S.L.
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Peter Garret of Midnight Oil

So, you think that politics don't belong in rock music, eh? WRONG: don't be so narrow-minded! Long before *Rage Against the Machine* came along, the title of "most political commercial band" belonged to Australia's Midnight Oil. Since the early '80s, these imposing yet eloquent musicians have released scores of quality material, all with an underlying political message. They claim to be a band that "has rallied against injustice, apathy, inequality, and the lurking evil forces of cynicism and conservatism with sound, fury, and righteous indignation" yet, in the process, they have churned out eleven top-notch albums and sold over 12 million records worldwide. You probably recognize Midnight Oil from their monstrous, loud and very bald and aggressive lead singer Peter Garret. On this new collection of songs he's as pissed off and vengeful as ever, and he really wants to tell you why! *20,000 Watt R.S.L.* is a compilation of sixteen Oil classics and two new songs. All of the old radio hits such as "Beds are Burning" and "Blue Sky Mine" are present, but the interesting tunes are the two new tracks. "What Goes On" and "White Skin Black Heart" signify the start of a new era for Midnight Oil. These two tracks are tinged with industrial vocals and some hauntingly fuzzy guitar riffs, giving off an almost pessimistic-goth aura. After years of campaigning for social justice, nuclear disarmament, environmental responsibility, Aboriginal land rights, and forest preservation, these hard working Aussies are probably pretty sick and tired of the evils of our materialistic world, and I guess they think that the listener should be too.

Craig Corbett

Pearl Jam
Yield
Epic

The seed of Seattle sound has surfaced again. Since the 1991 album *Ten* (which has turned nine times platinum) Pearl Jam has contributed to various film soundtracks, played benefits for a plethora of causes, and fought Ticketmaster over the anti-trust monopolisation of the ticket industry. The new album *Yield* is their fifth offering in the wake of their 1996 album *No Code*, and although there's a little experimentation on this CD, it certainly didn't break any preconceived notions of their sound in my mind. Their eclectic views of the music industry are reflected in the group's politics. Despite this continuous push on the boundaries of rock, their latest album seems almost disappointingly hum-drum. The radio track "Given to Fly" and "Faithful" are reminiscent of the old Vedder nihilism that we're all so used to. Meanwhile, "Brain of J." and "Do the Evolution" are the staple power chord chops and banshee cries of grungedom. This album compares to *Vitalogy* in terms of the overall sound, but *Yield* flogs this dead horse a bit. You get your share of the tortured poetic waxing in this album complete with all that thrash. All in all, Pearl Jam's popularity has been a lot like those Orbitz drinks: at first it seems like a great idea, but after a while, you think: "How could I ever have bought this horse-puke?" In the words of Eddie Vedder: "That's evolution, baby."

Joel Higham

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!

Local Exposure seeks amateur home video entries

by Emily Wong and Dave Alexander

If you're looking for something to do during Reading Week and you can't afford that big ski trip, you might want to enter the Local Exposure amateur home video competition.

According to Ivan Todosijczuk, publicist for the National Screen Institute, which organizes the competition every year as part of the Local Heroes Screen Festival in March, "anybody with a story they want to tell and has access to a camcorder" is eligible to enter. "We don't put any restriction on content — except that it has to be suitable for families," says Ivan. That basically means no sex and no potty mouth.

He stresses that Local Exposure is not like *America's Funniest Home Videos*, though. "What a bunch of sick, twisted bunnies! To me, seeing grandma lying at the bottom of the stairs is not funny!" he said, referring to the popular TV show hosted by Bob Saget of *Full House* fame. The competition seeks movies, not accidents and flub-ups caught on film. "It's got to be a story with a beginning, middle, and end and with characters."

Videos should be about five minutes long and can be from any genre. Last year's winner *Pizza Fugitive* was an action/adventure flick which Ivan describes as "a cross between Quentin Tarantino and John Woo" in style. The film, shot by Alex Chu who works in an insurance company, was about a pizza delivery boy who gets hit by mobsters after delivering their pizza late.

There were about 60 submissions last year for Local Exposure. A panel of four judges narrowed down the entries to 10 finalists whose entries were screened at the Gameau Theatre before a public audience. The audience then had an opportunity to vote for their favourite film. This year, the judging process will follow the same pattern with the public screening of final contestants happening March 8 at the Gameau Theatre once again.

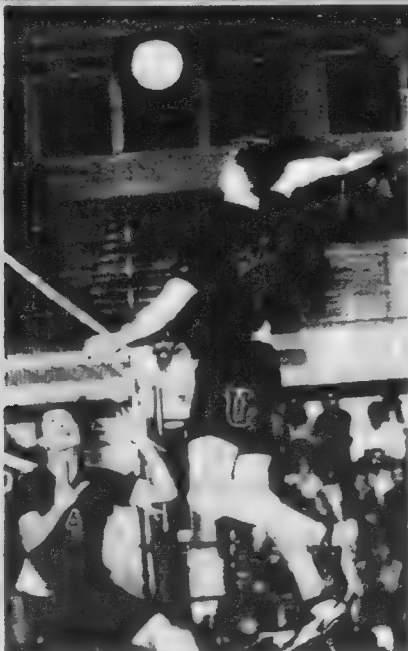
Ivan has a couple of pointers for people interested in entering the Local Exposure competition. "Plan out shots very carefully and visualize it in your head," he says. Ivan also advises

people to take time to edit their films once the shooting process has been completed. Virtually every camcorder and VCR put out in the last five years has editing features, he says.

Rich Anderson, who graduated two years ago from the U of A with a degree in English, won the award for best film two years ago with a slasher comedy based on films like *Psycho* and *Halloween* called *Honey, There's a Noise in the Basement*. Like Ivan, Rich emphasizes the importance of editing. He describes the finalists of the competition as "very polished," and the quality of entries as improving from year to year.

For Rich, "trying to turn a hobby as a filmmaker into a career" has always been his goal. However, Ivan stresses that people of all ages and from all walks of life have entered the competition. "It gives everybody a chance to have some fun. That's the key thing... The cost is next to nothing."

The deadline for submissions is February 24. For more information, call the National Screen Institute at 421-4084.



Player in Front: Clint Millard (Middle) #2
Player in Back: Adrian Fairney (Setter) #4

Photo by
Jonathan Madenwald



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SPORTS

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Playoff Preparation

Bears ready themselves for semifinals

by Denise Fernandes

It was a night of many lasts for the University of Alberta Golden Bears volleyball team.

The last match of the regular season and, therefore, the last chance to refine the little things before the CWUAA semi finals.

It was also the last regular season match ever for four Golden Bears: Clint Millard, Derek Nicoll, Trevor Jones, and Dan Harding. They were honoured in a pre-match presentation by members of the Pandas volleyball team, a tradition that has been a part of U of A sports for many years.

"It signifies the respect that U of A sports has for its graduating players. It was a little reminder of our time that we played here and all the good times," said Derek Nicoll.

"They're four guys who have been a big part of our team. It was good to acknowledge their presence that way," Bears head coach Terry Danyluk added.

Golden Bears Murray Grapentine echoed Danyluk's feelings. "Those guys have played really hard for us this year and next

year we're going to have to do without them ... [the presentation] was uplifting."

Last weekend, the Bears hosted the Calgary Dinos and came away with two wins, improving Alberta's record to 16-6 while Calgary fell to 9-13. The matches were insignificant for the U of A's CWUAA standings, as the Bears already had second place in the Canada West nailed down. They realize that there is still room for improvement and that the big test is this weekend.

"I think the guys are looking forward to [the semis]. We just have to practice hard right now and try to bring everything together ... we're prepared for a long match and a long weekend," said Harding, who was Alberta's best player on both nights against the Dinos.

"We need to be more consistent. When we play our game really good it's really good. We need to keep it really good at a fairly consistent level," explained Danyluk.

The Bears have shown that they are one of the top teams in the

league even though no one gave them a chance in the beginning of the season. They realize they need to improve on their side out consistency, the strongest part of their game.

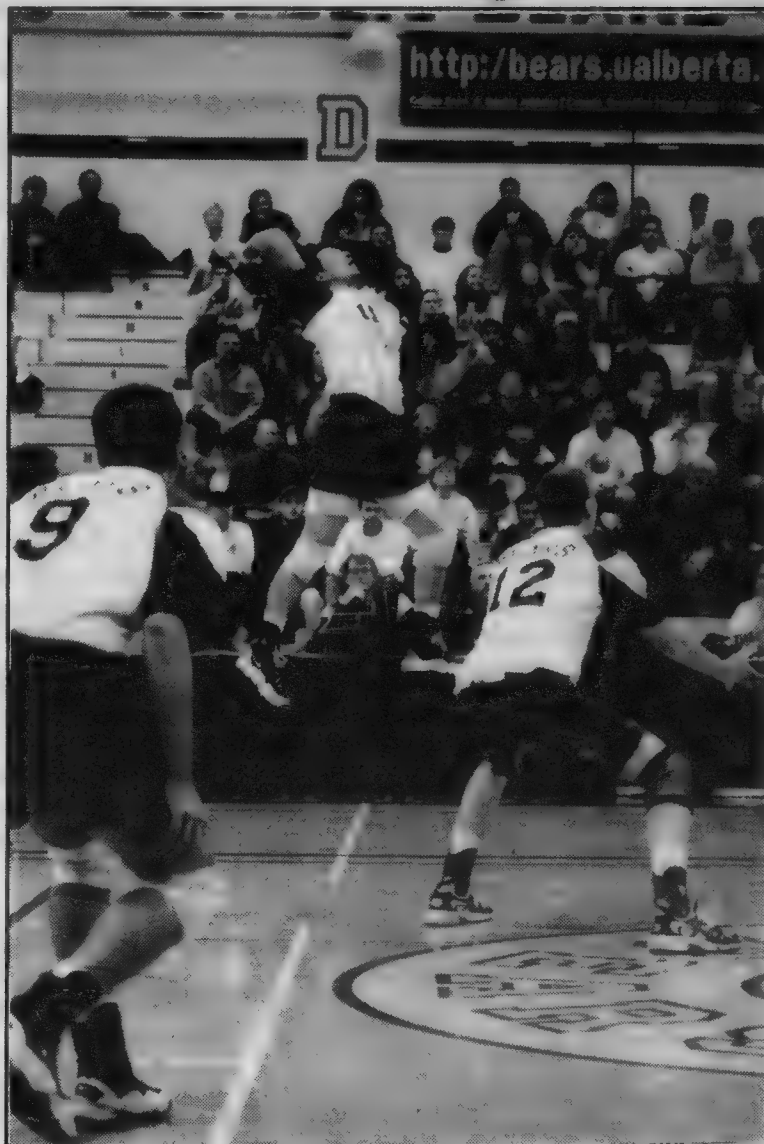
"We're going to have to do like we did [against the Dinos] position blocking: working on our side-out game and let everything else take care of itself. As long as we're fighting out, there's not many teams that are going to beat us," said Grapentine.

The T-Birds have a very athletic lineup and are the kind of team that is hard to stop when they get on a roll. Fortunately the Bears play the same way but playing at home will be an advantage.

It is time for the Bears to prove their critics wrong and there is no doubt in their minds that they can repeat as champions.

"It's always harder to repeat [but] there's no doubt in anyone's mind on our team that we can do it again," said Nicoll.

Things are coming together for the Bears at the perfect time. It is a good thing that timing is everything.



Note to self: trash the T-Birds.

Sarah Haddow

DUNKING OVER FOR DUNKLEY

by Brandice Shostak

During the course of a basketball season, various injuries can occur. This is an unfortunate aspect of sports that must be accepted because adjustments are to be made for the better or worse – the season must continue regardless of the disadvantages the injury presents to the team it affects.

While the Golden Bear basketball team has accepted the reality of power-forward Ryan Dunkley's injury, they certainly won't embrace the huge loss it presents. Dunkley tore his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) during the second half of a game against Lethbridge two weeks ago in the main gym.

As a result of Dunkley's injury, the Golden Bears will lose a prominent forward for the rest of the season. Dunkley recounts how he injured himself and when he expects to be back in the lineup: "I was trying to go along the baseline, but I was headed out of bounds, so in midair I tried to turn around and save the ball from going out of bounds. I landed on a straight leg and the pain, as a result, was in-

credible. I have seen three surgeons and they say the ACL is totally torn. I am getting an MRI on Monday but the prognosis is not good. At this moment, the head trainers Trina and Todd are helping me relieve some of the swelling by restricting my range of motion. They say I will have six months of rehabilitation and will be back to normal – one hundred per cent for September."

"They say I will have six months of rehabilitation and will be back to normal – one hundred per cent for September."

— Ryan Dunkley, injured Golden Bears basketball forward

Dunkley was a force to be reckoned with during the inspirational games against Victoria a month ago where he dominated the inside and helped his team to sweep the number one team in the country at

home.

Victoria was without premier player Eric Hinrichsen, who was also the casualty of an injury. Hinrichsen suffered a foot injury. It's funny how one injury can reshape the dimensions of a team.

Fortunately, the Golden Bears have tremendous depth at forward with players like Nick Hughes, Mark Humphrey and captain Jeff Collier who will be able to alleviate some of the strain caused by Dunkley's absence.

Furthermore, the Golden Bears have a balanced offensive attack lead in their leading scorer and guard, Mark Filtau, who opens up the middle with his perimeter shooting.

Although disappointed to be out this season, Dunkley has confidence in his team and will be cheering on the bench. "I still get upset when I realize I won't be back this season. Although I can't help physically on the court, I can still make my presence felt on the bench while I cheer on the guys."

Maybe his presence won't be missed after all.

Cowtown (Kinda) Crushed

by Laura Matheson

The Pandas basketball team has somewhat mixed feelings after their last games against the University of Calgary Dinos. This past weekend, the Pandas journeyed south to Calgary and won only one of their two games against the Dinos.

The first game of the match up ended in an unfortunate two point loss for the Pandas. Friday's final score was 59-57 for the Dinos. Alberta forward Jackie Simon was back in fine form for the February 6 game with 21 points and an outstanding 15 rebounds. Pandas forward Robin Haig noted that the team "learned a lot" from Friday's game.

The Pandas obviously applied their new found knowledge in Saturday's game since the final score was 65-61 for the U of A. This time, Pandas forward Rania Burns took the honour of top scorer with 21 points and three rebounds.

Calgary's best player for both games was Leighann Doan. In Friday's game, she scored 16 points and made 12 rebounds while in Saturday's game, she had 27 points and 16 rebounds.

With almost half of the Dinos points coming from Doan, it's no wonder that the Pandas focused most of their defensive strength on her. Haig commented that the team "handled Doan well and didn't let

her take over."

According to Haig, the Pandas attribute their victory on Saturday to a "surge." She added that "the mindset got us pumped," and that "once we get going, we just thrust forward."

Jackie Simon added that in the second half, they "came out like mad women," and played as though they were possessed. Simon continued to say that the Pandas "are not going to roll over and die." Haig also commented that the team will use the next few days to "get [their] mental edge back."

Next weekend's games against the University of Saskatchewan should be a little easier for the Pandas, but they still aren't going to take the Huskies for granted. Even though the Huskies currently have a record of 3-13, contrasted with the Pandas standing of 10-6, Alberta knows that they can't afford to take Saskatchewan lightly.

"We can't treat them like they're not a threat," said Haig. Simon stated that the Pandas "are ready to kick some ass and set the tone for the rest of the season." Haig wholeheartedly seconded that.

The Pandas basketball team won't be looking for chocolate or roses this Valentine's Day—instead they want two decisive wins over — Saskatchewan and a little bit of a confidence booster.

Around Athletics...

This space is for Christie Schultz. Thanks for being not only an excellent photographer, but a great person as well. Have fun in Australia. We'll miss you.

- p. 16 Bears hockey team downs Lethbridge
- p. 16 Bears basketball in playoff race
- p. 16 Many martial arts clubs on campus
- p. 17 Off the Record with Mark Filteau

Bears hockey team burns 'Horns

by Barrie Tanner

The Golden Bears hockey team marched into Lethbridge with nine wins tucked under its belt, and with the full intention of extending the streak to eleven. While a lesser team in the standings, Lethbridge nevertheless represented a challenge to the Bears. The Bears have yet win against the Pronghorns. Instead they have settled for a pair of ties in season play and a loss in exhibition play.

But, with the playoffs looming just weeks away, the Bears were ready to break the Pronghorn curse and keep their juggernaut of success moving.

And on it moved. Friday night found the Bears in true form, as they showed the southerners some true northern hockey, blasting them 6-1.

Still holding the smoking gun, the U of A grazed the Pronghorns 3-2 in overtime on Saturday, despite being outshot 41-33. They remain undefeated in overtime this season.

While the team came out with their much desired (and much expected) four points, it was a good weekend for several of the Bears squad personally. Cam Danyluk popped a hat trick, and came out with five points on the weekend. Mike Jickling got five helpers, while Russ Hewson also put up five points, including the overtime winner on Saturday. Mike Thompson potted a goal every game, while Mark Hurley earned two points as well. Now, the Bears set the sights on their next prey, with Calgary coming to

town on Saturday night. Though they're 13 points below the high-flying Bears, it promises to be a good match-up as a good Albertan rivalry is fought out at the Clare Drake Arena.

"Anytime we play Calgary, it's a big game no matter where we are in the standings," said Golden Bear Dion Zukiwsky, who set up shop in the penalty box last weekend in Lethbridge. "It'll be intense ... we just have to focus in and continue to work hard."

With a good chance of meeting the Dinosaurs in the playoffs, the Bears want to make sure the southerners don't get too cocky.

"We want to make sure Calgary is psychologically battered [when we meet them in the playoffs]," said coach Rob Daum.

"A good team will always find a way to win, and we're a good team," said Bear Russ Hewson, who is surfing a 20-game scoring wave. "Anytime we play Calgary, both teams get up for it ... you won't find a guy in this dressing room who has a problem getting up to play them."

"The key to win for us is a strong team defense," said Albertan Tim Donnelly, who put the biscuit where it belongs last Friday. "We keep it simple ... take care of our end, and the rest falls into place."

But Cam Danyluk thinks they played it a little too simply last Saturday in Lethbridge when they scraped by 3-2 in OT. "We didn't

play very well, but we got our two points anyway," said the forward. It was a little too close for comfort for a team that's vying for home ice advantage in the playoffs.

"It's a dangerous thing to get into," commented Danyluk. "It's like having sex with White House interns — sooner or later it'll come back to get you. We just happened to get away with it."

However, as center Kent Simpson points out, the Bears shouldn't have to get away with anything in this series.

"We have to set the tone for the playoffs by coming out with a sweep," said Simpson. "It's as simple as that."

Simple or not, the U of A team has one major one remains.

"What's important is that we clinch home ice advantage for the playoffs," said Bears' defenceman Glen Pullishy. "The national title is the main goal, but we have to climb the ladder rung by rung, one by one until our objective is met."

After the Saturday night game this weekend at the Clare Drake Arena against the Dinosaurs, the Bears will be playing the weekend after (February 20 and 21) against the team they will likely be battling in the finals: the Saskatchewan Huskies. It's a preview of the playoffs, and a series you won't want to miss since the teams will be fighting for the chance to play in front of their home crowd ... a chance neither team is willing to surrender.

PLAYOFFS LOOMING

by Jason P. Glabb

It's almost that time of year: when the regular season is over and there is only either glory or crushing defeat left. With playoffs in the near future, the Golden Bears basketball team is trying to focus on this weekend, although the upcoming games against Saskatchewan are almost a formality.

This weekend will probably be characterized by Golden Bear dominance over the lowly 1-15 Saskatchewan squad. Saskatchewan, however, is not to be taken lightly. As captain Jeff Collier explained, Saskatchewan could be dangerous if for no other reason that they have nothing to lose.

"It's a double-edged sword for Saskatchewan. They have nothing to lose, therefore they can come out flying or conversely, come out apathetic. It's about whether we show up and play or not. It's always a concern that if we go into Saskatchewan complacent, expecting just to walk in there and win, we won't get the results we expect from ourselves. We have to go into Saskatchewan with the same frame of mind we've had since Christmas."

"We have to stay intense or we will lose. If we start coasting for one game we'll continue to coast," Bear Nick Hughes explained.

This is the last road trip before the playoffs for the Golden Bears and they expect to make the most of it.

Late News: Last weekend the Golden Bears played a two-game set in Calgary and won both. They outplayed the Calgary Dinosaurs 96-83 on Friday and pulled out a squeaker 79-76 on Saturday night.

Mark Filteau was in fine form on the weekend, exploding with 33 points on Friday and leading the Golden Bear offensive attack on Saturday by knocking down 21 points.

A MYRIAD OF MARTIAL ARTS

by Gregory Pang

If you're looking to take some martial arts, then check out the variety right here at the U of A. Few other places in the city could offer students such great rates with such high quality training. If choosing which martial art to take is a problem, then here's a short overview of the clubs available on campus. Today, Tae Kwon Do (TKD), Judo, Kung Fu, and Aikido will be covered.

Until TKD was recently made an Olympic sport, Judo, which mainly uses grappling and wrestling, was highly visible as the only martial art in the Olympics. Ron Senda, chief instructor of the Judo Club explains what the founder of Judo had in mind for the competitive nature of the sport. "The idea of Judo is you can go all out, your partner could return the favour and then you could go for beer afterward ... try that with some other martial arts and you hurt your partner."

The TKD Club practices WTF (World Tae Kwon Do Federation) style, which is used in the Olympics, according to Colleen Williams of the TKD Club. "For each semester, there are about four or five [tournaments]," said Williams. TKD is mainly based on powerful high kicks above the waist but there is more to the club than just the kicking and competition, explains Williams. "It's about 80 percent kicking ... and sometimes we do a little bit of self-defence work and

pressure points."

In contrast to the above two martial arts, the Karate and Kung Fu clubs use much more upper body strikes. The hard hitting Karate Club trains in a style of Karate called Wado, which translates into Way to Peace and Harmony. "It's one of the simpler forms of martial arts," according to head instructor Gary Williams, who explained that their training allows a person to "very quickly and effectively disable or kill an opponent if you needed to ... but [leave] very little room for a polite grapple to the ground."

The Kung Fu Club trains in the traditional art of Wing Chun Kung Fu. In Wing Chun (popularly thought to have been invented by a woman in ancient China), strikes and blocks are optimized for the smaller and weaker individual to quickly and effectively defend themselves against bigger and stronger attackers. Master Edward Ng describes the advantage of the style: "we introduce you how to create your own body's potential."

Aikido is a non-competitive and almost completely defensive style unlike almost any other martial art. An Aikido practitioner redirects an attacker's energy against the opponent and at the same time makes use of arm and wrist locks. "Aikido is more in the middle," explains Neil McKellar, student contact for the club, when comparing the

style to the likes of Karate and Judo. "We encourage our students to kick and punch properly because it's a part of learning to defend against those things, [and] we encourage people to throw and grapple, and that makes up the bulk of the training."

More martial arts will be covered in upcoming issues of the Gateway.

Gregory Pang is a member of the Kung Fu club.

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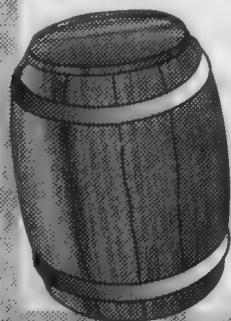


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Brandice Shostak

Off the Record

THE ADVENTURES OF PHILLY THE RAT

Mark "Philly" Filteau is not exactly your typical basketball player. He stands only 5'10" tall, is working towards his BComm, and is older than some of his teammates by 10 years.

Mark, a guard for the Golden Bears' basketball team, definitely doesn't stand out on the court. That is, until he has the ball in his hands. In his first year playing for the U of A, Mark has earned the respect of players around the league with his solid shooting. Not bad for someone who claims he was a poor player in high school. In fact, Mark wasn't much for basketball back in Red Deer.

"I wasn't a good player in high school. I didn't even start. I was more into tennis," he said.

From the bench in high school, Mark moved on to the U of A where he put in two years towards a BA in Economics. From here, he went back to Red Deer, where he attended Red Deer College. While there Mark played basketball for one season. Not having sampled enough post-secondary institutions yet, he then enrolled at Grant MacEwan Community College, where he earned a diploma in accounting. It was at GMCC that Mark began to really come into his own on the basketball court. At

Grant MacEwan, Mark was named an Academic All-Canadian, which requires being named to the All-Conference Team and maintaining a 3.5 average on a four-point scale.

Mark ended up back at the U of A when Golden Bears head coach Don Horwood asked him to come to the ID camp. Mark was familiar with the U of A program already, having worked with Horwood at camps the last five summers. Although, at 28, he is the oldest member of the team, Mark is still surprised at the amount of playing time he is getting this year.

"I didn't know how much I would play when I got here, with so many dominant players on the team. I'm playing so much better from the first six games of the year because Coach has showed confidence in me," said Mark.

When he's not playing basketball, Mark is still drawn to the gym.

"The guys say I'm the ultimate gym rat. Some of them call me The Rat because I'm smaller," he said.

He's also into both tennis and golf in a big way. He had worked at golf courses in the past and is thinking of returning to the same summer job he held last year, teaching tennis in St. Paul. Mark aims to help the Bears win another national championship and get his degree.

"I just want to get a job where I'm happy, and have some kids. I have no aspirations to big amounts of money. I want to do something for the environment, something to make the world a better place. I've changed as I've gotten older," he said.

In the little bit of spare time he can find, Mark likes to snowboard, and claims to be an avid TV watcher.

"I'm more into stupid humour. I also watch a lot of sports, like any athlete. I probably go out more than I should, although there isn't much time for a social life," he said.

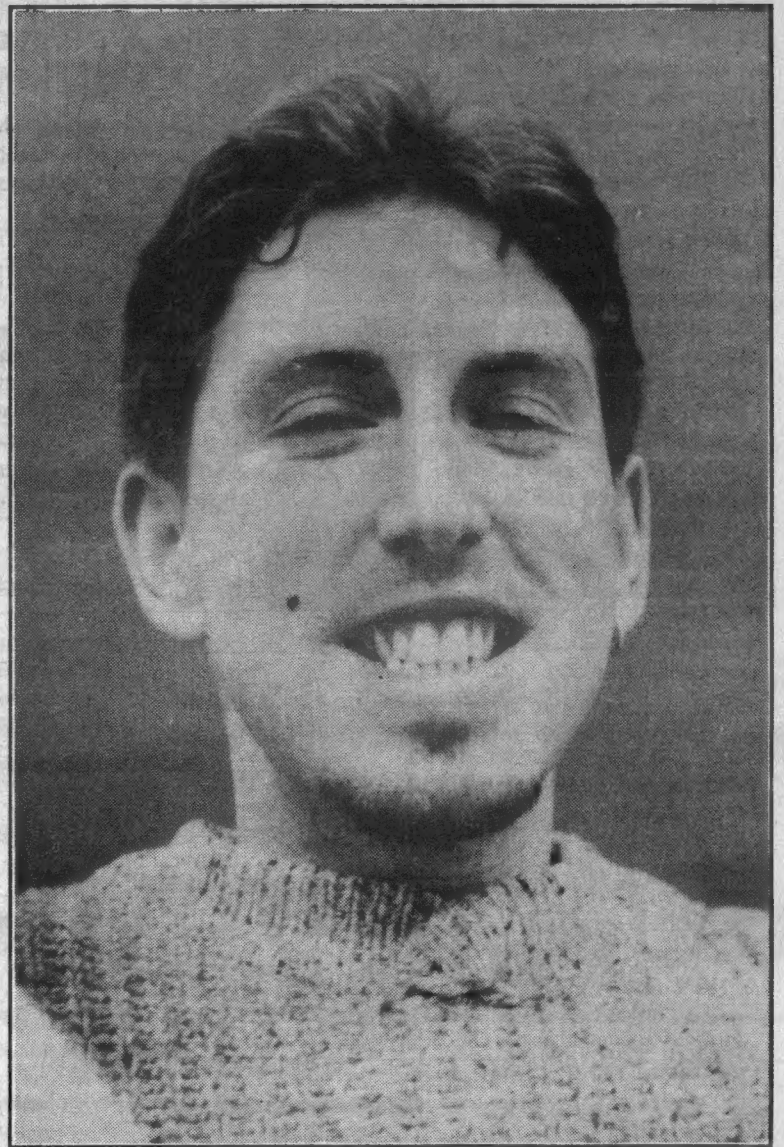
Mark also said he is highly competitive, yet paradoxical in that he is also very laid back.

"I pick my arguments. I let lots go, but when I do argue ..." he trailed off.

Despite his position as one of the top scorers for the Bears, Mark is often overlooked by opponents.

"Compared to people like Darren and Max, I don't look like a basketball player. Other people always forget about me. It's not bad being 5'10" and playing ball. I like not being the centre of attention. I like to surprise people," he said.

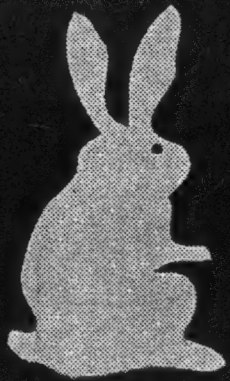
Uhh, sorry Mark, but I don't think you will be anonymous for long.



Christie Schultz

Mark Filteau. Stop him in the hallway to chat. He likes that.

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Election's Office

Referendum and Plebiscite Announcement and Registration Meeting

There will be a meeting held on February 6, 1998 at 4:00 pm in Room 3-06 in the Students' Union Building. Those interested in registering YES or NO sides in the upcoming election are advised to attend. Registrations forms and rules for the campaign will be included on the agenda.

Registration of the YES and NO sides for the upcoming election will occur at the all candidates meeting to be held Friday February 13, 1998 at 5:00 pm in Room 3-06.

Referendum Question

Would you be willing to contribute \$0.50 per term to Student Legal Services (a free legal clinic operated by law students) so that they can continue to provide free legal assistance and public legal education to the students at the University of Alberta and the community at large?

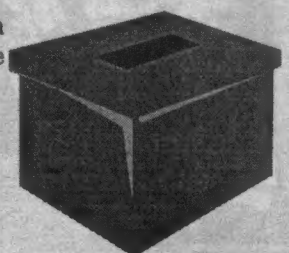
Proposed Plebiscite Question to be passed by Students' Council

Should the Students' Union enter into a single source cold beverage agreement which includes the following terms:

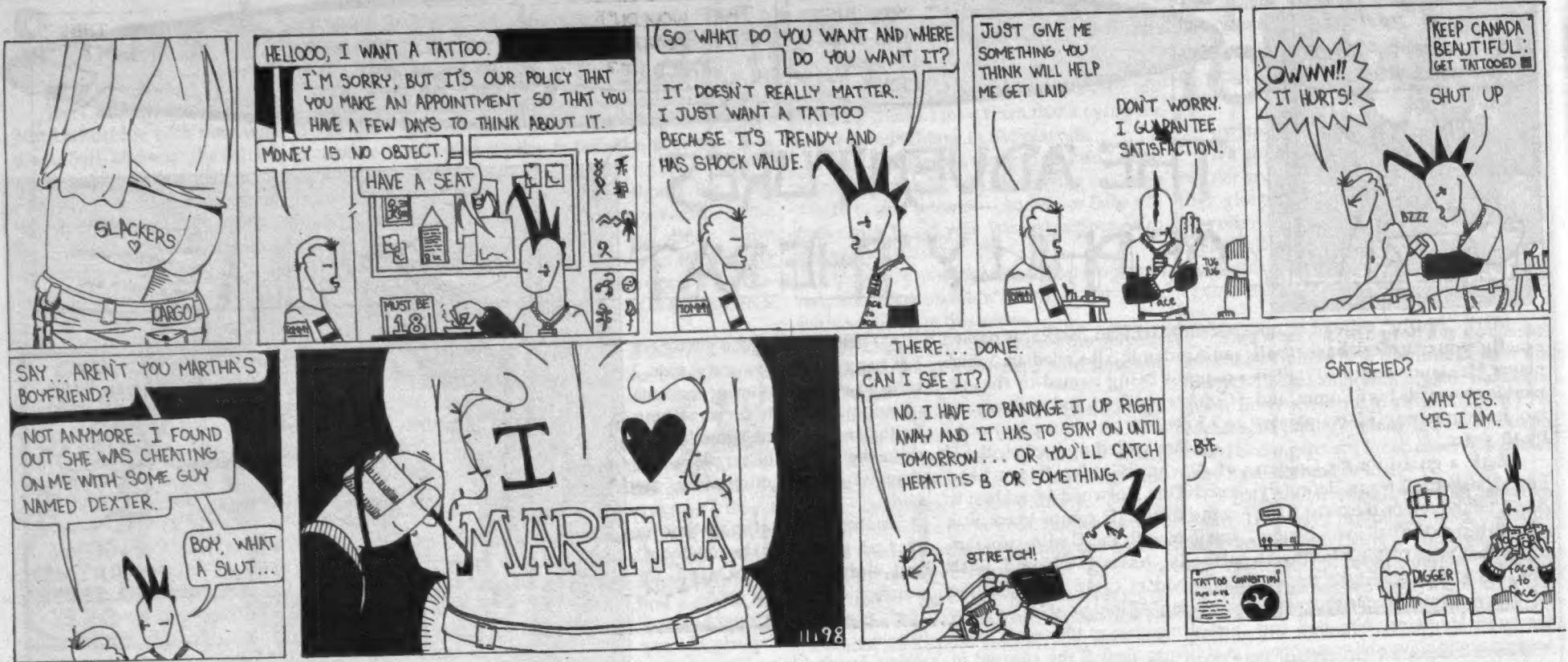
- a) Coca-Cola will be the sole supplier of cold beverages on campus for 10 years;
- b) A minimum of \$4.7 million will be committed to new student bursaries and scholarships over the next 10 years;
- c) The Students' Union will receive a minimum of \$500,000 for student priorities to be determined by the Students Union

- d) Wholesale prices will be frozen for a period in excess of 3 years.

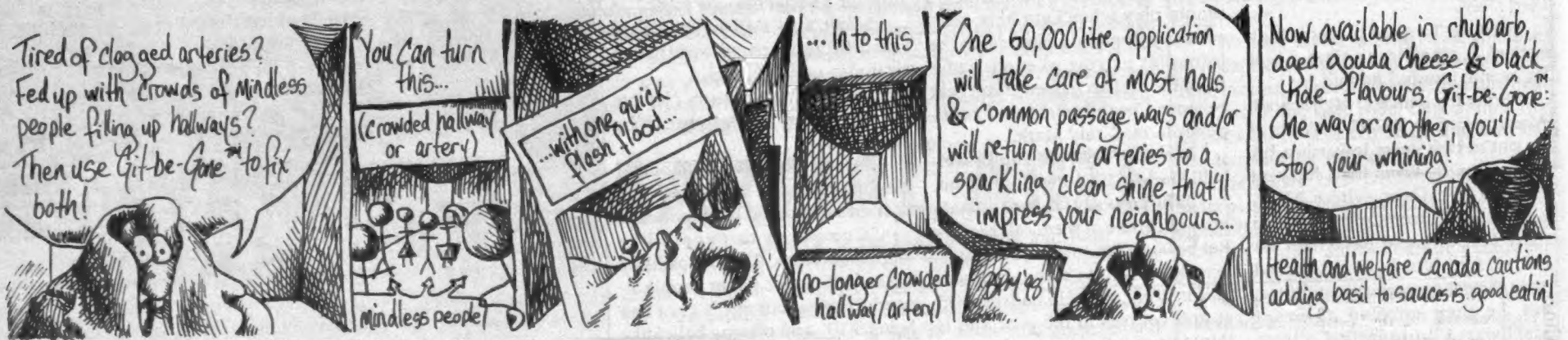
For more information contact the Elections Office at 492-7102 or come to Room 3-02K SUB.



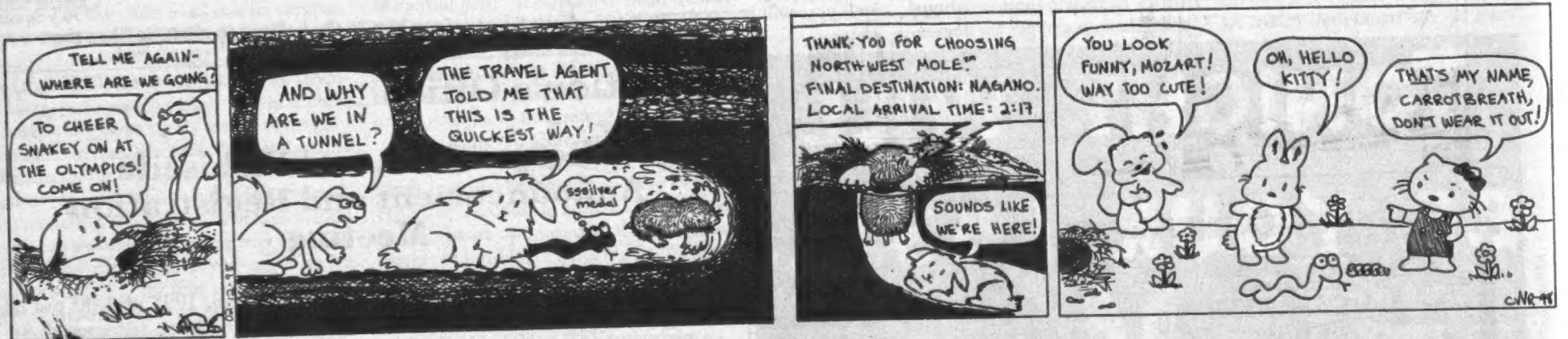
Slackers



Milky



Mozart



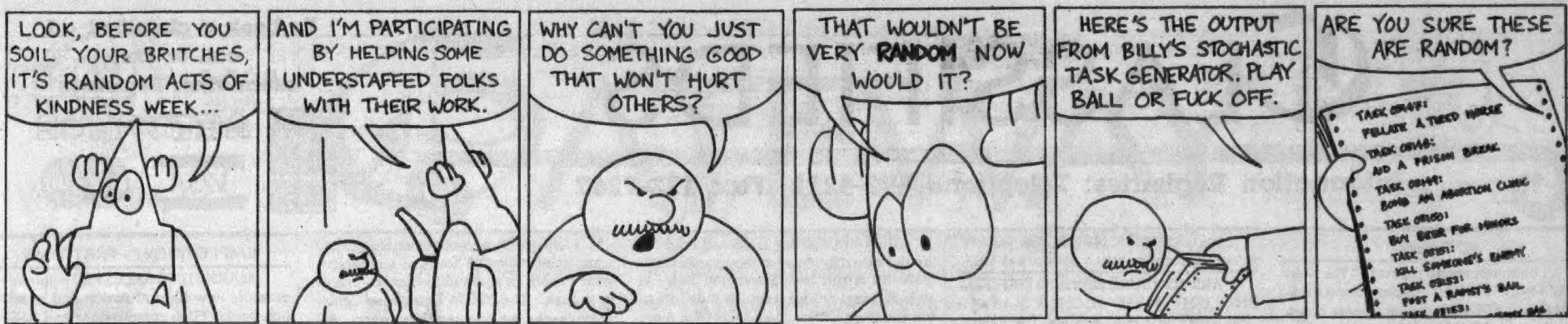
Metro 86



Shake it Veral



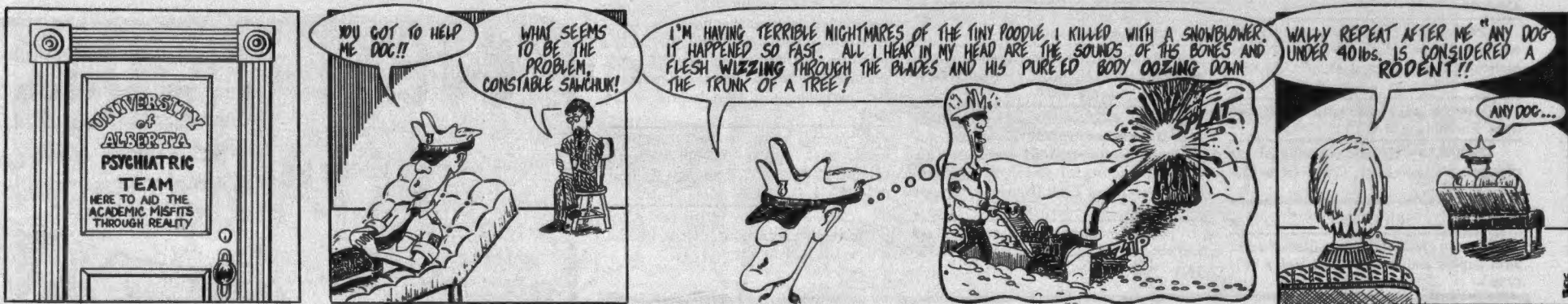
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The UofA Curling Club will hold it's annual mixed bonspiel at the Granite Club (8620-107 Street) from March 6-8. Enter as an individual or as a team. It'll be lots of fun and there will be great prizes! For more information or to register, contact Gina (986-8795 or gina@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca).

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Ekota Out of School Care in Millwoods requires child care staff available immediately. For further information call 450-2723 Mon-Fri.

LOST & FOUND

Found: Mountain bike in the University area. Please call to claim. 487-1494

NEXT VICTIM PLEASE ...

It's time once again to find the eight (fool)hardy souls to brave the world of student journalism. Applications for next year's Gateway line editors will be accepted until 4 p.m., Thursday, March 5. Managing, sports, entertainment, production, photo, circulation and two news editors required. Interviews will be on March 7. (That's probably a Saturday). No experience in Latin required, but a good command of the English language is preferred. (That way we don't git to much muhstakes in that thar noozepaper). Good luck!

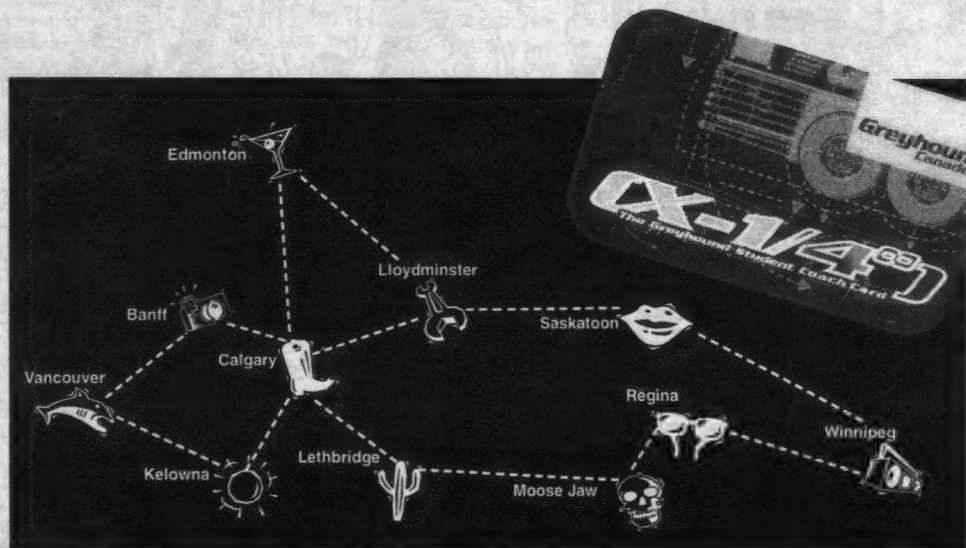
THREE LINES FREE

brought to you by: The Shadow

paper people: i never could have imagined how much i love this crazy place. i'll be back. thanks sarah c. for showing me the light. -CS
Hercules. Who's eating who first? Your place or mine? Xena
Sven and Gimpy: Hello. Hello? Where are you? I love you both. Becky Lunatic
Mariborough Matt, now you're old enough to legally buy porn anywhere in the world. Happy B-day! -The Bot-heads
Kern C. hates my guts. I've been AWOL. I think she's called her lawyer and taken me out of her will. Volunteer Stiff
Half naked guy on this Thurs. Gateway, why stop at halfway? -Appreciative "Friends"
Happy 22nd Birthday, Teresa!! CK
Christie, the writer: a K.T. grad? Just curious. -B
Zeena, Warrior Princess -It has been too long. Stay where you are. The Forest Faeries are on the way. See you at dinner.
Horsegirl: Happy 20th birthday. Mountainboy
Jeremy from U of A Rugby - you're really cute - going on tour??? R U dating someone? -Fellow tight 5 member
Blaine. Forget redheads. You wouldn't have to stalk me to get a date! -) A certain brunette
To my Schmoie: It's your birthday, it's your birthday, it's your birthday boy or girl. P.S. I choo choo choo choose you! Love C
sleepy goodness will come...

Teresa R. Pens 240 mwf 9:00. Happy B-day? I've seen you in class, your beauty stupifies me. Meet me 4 coffee w @10. Sus info booth? v120, mwf @11-12, girl who always sits at the top of the class by the doors, want to say hi but always too shy. Klondike Guy
B'day guy of Cowboys, Tues Feb.3. Are you calling? Just curious. Ani lover
Dear Germany, Happy Valentine's Day, my teddy bear! Hershey Babez... mean it!! Yours truly, Denmark
Orange haired MF w/ goatee who elbowed me outside n.11 @11am on Wed 02/04: Eat shit and die you ugly BASTARD!!!
GRUNGE - Anger is short madness. Mike is short stumpy man. With love, the Harry Ainlay Yearbook Committee, Class of '96
Happy 18th Berlin! from Jamal & Christine & Kelly & Nick & Mel Finally! Now, on to Ezze's
#41 Digger, I want your money shot
Happy 19th Barbie, from Bambi & Kiki
GBH #19, you are so money baby! And you don't even know it
Archie. Can I be your Veronica or will I be too much to Handel!
Dunk, hope you're hobbling about painlessly soon.
Pretty-boy Mark-Where are you hiding?-B
Mark from R-A-T-T: You know we love you! -GW staff
Guy checking me out Tues. at Coffee Company: next time say Hi. -Girls in brown pants
Christie-DONT GO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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